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THE COMING ELECTIONS.

Our preparations for war in Great Britain are almost on a scale with those which are made by the great Powers of the Continent. Reform is the Italy which supplies combatants with the occasion for a struggle; Lord John is the French Emperor, hoping to use the Radical, Sardinia, for his own purposes; the Ministry, like Austria, professes its willingness to hear of reforms, but means to fight for its own existence first of all. The *goldshed*, we suspect, will be on a scale with the bloodshed to be expected in the other case; and the real result to the Constitution, in the long-run, is as much a matter of difficult speculation as the upshot of the European disturbance. Let us be thankful, that, after all said and done, we have a constitution and state of society which enables us to be eager about such a combat, and to be partly viewing it as an amusing kind of excitement, while other countries of the world have anxieties so much more real. Foreigners, we suspect, over-rate our internal disturbance at this moment. They forget that we have a Press or *writing* Parliament to make up for the temporary loss of our talking one; and that if the country once thought itself in for a foreign difficulty, it would put "fancy franchises" and "rating suffrages" on the shelf *sine die*.

But while we have so much confidence in the sense and pluck of our countrymen, we are anxious to follow up last week's views by giving them some serious advice at this crisis. Disclaiming factious motives, and having a circulation which must necessarily take in readers of very various opinions, we look on the people, and talk to them, as a whole. What, then, is the supreme requirement of the country just now? We answer, *a strong Government*—whether it be black, white, or gray. Five administrations in two years is hardly a wholesome state of things in a country urgently in need of many kinds of reform. Every dissolution gives a new chance of something like an active and strong ministry, and should be viewed in this light.

Political Reform is necessarily the favourite topic of the hour, because it is the immediate occasion of there being a dissolution at all. On foreign affairs the country is singularly unanimous just now—resolutely pacific and impartial, and in-

disposed for any intervention but one of reason and argument. In domestic affairs, if it is anxious for political reform, this is mainly because of the general impression that such is necessary to the advancement of other kinds of improvement. Probably there never was a time when moderate and practical men could do so much by laying their shoulders to the wheel and trying it heartily. What is required is, that they shall begin, *instantly*, and send up a Parliament determined to have the Reform question settled, as a means towards those less directly political—but not less important—improvements required in the state. Why is the country so moderate in its demands just now, compared with what it was thirty years ago? Simply because of the activity in social improvements which has marked the generation; even though these have fallen so short of what they ought to have been. Once adjust the Reform question, and let another thirty years of greater activity of the kind come, and our institutions may ride through revolutionary gales for ever and a day.

This adjustment, however, can only be made possible by the election of a House of Commons expressly prepared for it—and that can only be done by an indirect process. Mere names will not go for much in this election; and men will be chosen—where they are honestly chosen at all—for their principles.

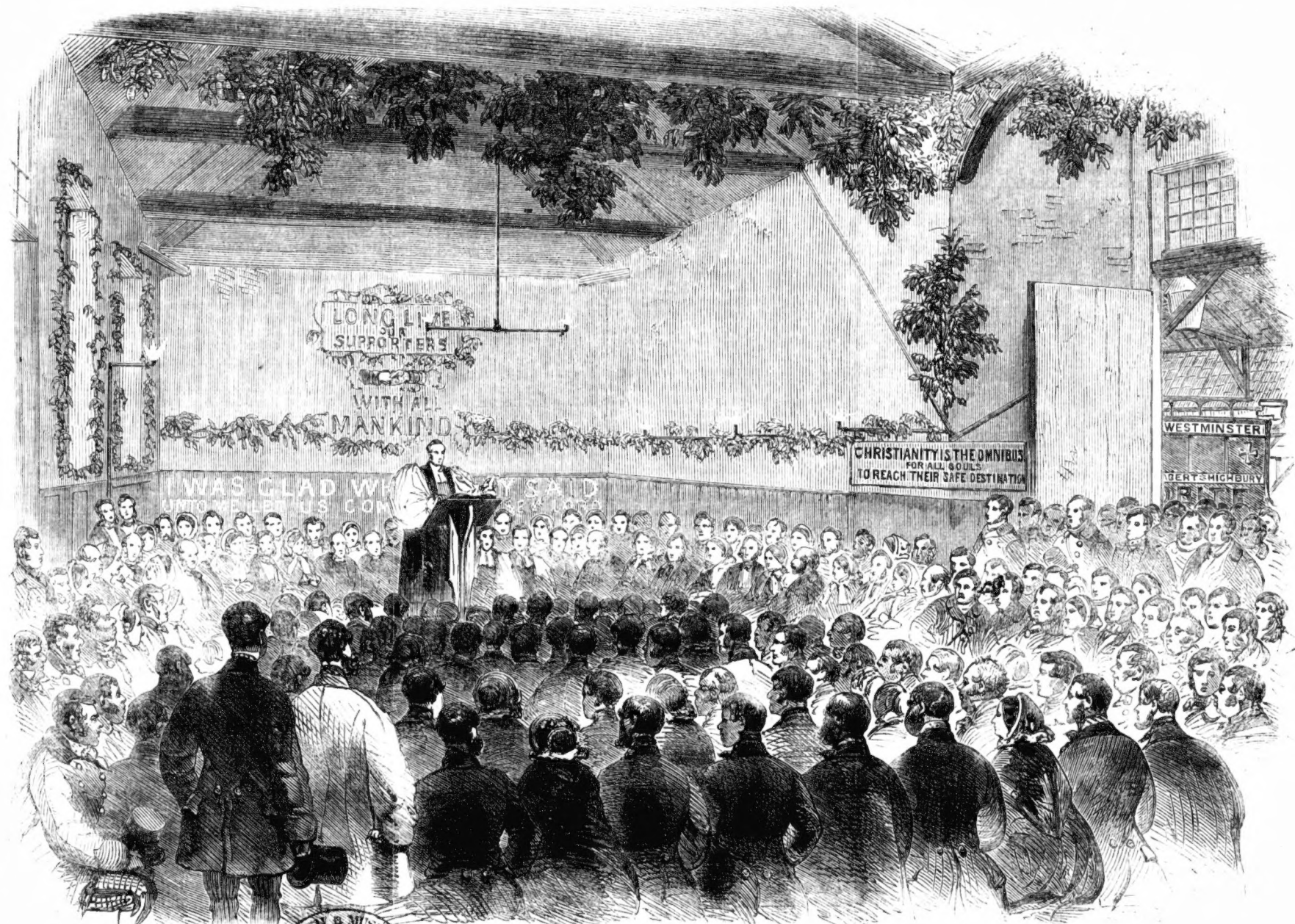
Judging by the particular rocks on which the Derby Bill was wrecked, we can form a guess what principles will be represented in any pass-able measure. More disfranchisement, and a wider suffrage, will be unquestionably features of it. Thus the £10 county suffrage may be called an established thing; the disqualification of the county-voting freeholder in boroughs will be found impossible; and, generally, a more decided colour will belong to the successful measure. But it will not be an extravagant measure for all that, there being no combination possible which should carry a measure of such a kind. On this fact—evident from a hundred symptoms—rests the hopes of those practical and reasonable politicians whose chances are so good at present, if, as we have said, they choose to work them.

In order to do this, they should select, from the professions and reasonings of both parties in the late parliamentary struggle,

the grain of sense which seems most capable at an early period of being embodied in legislation. And in this eclectic task we should like to help them. Take, for instance, the disfranchisement branch of the question—the point round which the fighting may be expected to be hottest. What is the kernel of reason in the husk of Mr. Gladstone's too copious eloquence in their favour? Simply this: that, as little wheels are as important in a machine as big wheels, so boroughs *do* play a part in the machine of the Constitution. But does *every* little wheel continue to do its duty as well as it once did? This we deny. Before the Derby Bill appeared at all, we anticipated the difficulty of any such defence as this, and pointed out that the pocket-boroughs were not now employed as they formerly were. This we take to be unanswerable. Calne does *not* return Macaulays now, nor try to return them; and cannot plead in its favour the plea Mr. Gladstone would put in its mouth. The borough-owners of our time use their power in the interest of their own families: and this the Constitution never contemplated. Nor can they plead that they supply the Macaulays themselves, for the dearth of rising young talent in Parliament is a notorious fact of the time.

This is one point we shall hear of on the hustings. Then, as to the bestowal of seats, our model politician will steer between Bright and Gladstone. Mere numbers would disfranchise all Scotland to supply Glasgow—a significant illustration of its effects. But it is equally clear that numbers ought to tell in some proportion, for we do actually admit that principle in the Constitution at present.

Well, then, for the admission of the "working classes" in this detail something can be learned from both sides. Why not take the educational, lodger, and savings'-bank franchises, and such reduction of the mere rental test as may be found reasonable? This will secure the *variety* justly recommended as the moral character of a national constituency, and yet save the educated, propertied, and responsible minority from being "swamped." And here—as there is a superficial look of want of generosity in limiting the suffrage on grounds like these—we would have our politician capable of meeting that objection. We



THE BISHOP OF LONDON PREACHING IN AN OMNIBUS YARD.

would have him tell the people frankly—"We don't fear your intentions, but your inexperience;—not what you would like to do, but what you might be cajoled, frightened, or excited into doing;—and we mean to place the suffrage on a certain height above you, because reaching that height will be an improving process to yourself." The "people" sounds wonderfully great as an abstraction. But surely when a liberal like Mr. Henry Mayhew tells us that there are many thousands of a class in London (costermongers) "who have no notion of income or property, but believe that all non-workers live out of the taxes," surely, we say, the most advanced speculator would hesitate before intrusting power to them?

As for the personnel of our Parliament, we should be glad to see it changed in many particulars. There are in almost every town or county men much fitter to be in Parliament than those who come to it—who yet leave the district open to strange lawyers and speculators from the metropolis—partly from timidity, and partly on account of local jealousies. Or when a local man is taken, he is taken from the less educated section of the business class, from too merely local considerations; never, perhaps, having lived in any larger world than his own, or given proof of any fitness except for routine business or for some hereditary occupation. The *dead weight* of the country, so to speak, is over-represented just now, and we want more of the vivifying influence of personal superiority and originality. When the influence of the reading and talking class of the mechanics is more felt in the suffrage, this will probably be modified; and they will be mindful of those who help them just now.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON PREACHING IN AN OMNIBUS YARD.

A REMARKABLE gathering of the men connected with the "Favourite" omnibuses assembled on the evening of last Sunday week in a carriage-shed at the depot in Upper Street, Islington. The largest building in the yard, specially prepared for the purpose, was crowded to excess by a most attentive auditory. During the past four years a religious service has been conducted on every Sunday morning, for the benefit of these men, by a clergyman resident in the parish. At eight o'clock on Sunday night, the service commenced with a hymn, which was very heartily sung; then followed the Litany, read by the honorary chaplain. Another hymn having been sung, the Bishop read in a clear and emphatic manner the 6th chapter of St. John's Gospel, and then preached for half-an-hour from the 14th verse. The sermon was admirably adapted to the occasion, and was listened to throughout with breathless attention. The men employed on the "Favourites" formed the chief part of the congregation. There were also present the Rev. Daniel Wilson (vicar of Islington), the Rev. J. Hambleton, the Rev. M. Thomas (honorary chaplain), and the Revs. D. F. Wilson, J. T. Baylee, Messrs. John Wilson, J. R. Clark, Charles Woodward, D. Clark, the Rev. H. Alton (minister of Union Chapel), &c. There must have been 600 present at the service.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE intelligence from France is filled with reports of the movement of troops and preparation in the naval arsenals. On the 10th, the "Moniteur" printed a decree ordering the apportionment among the departments of the 100,000 conscripts for this year of the class of 1858. It is remarked that, while in ordinary times 80,000, and sometimes even 40,000 only, are apportioned, on the present occasion the whole contingent is called out. There is a similar drain on the naval service. What is more, M. Lafitte (the principal director of the Victor Emmanuel Railway from the French frontier to the foot of the Alps, through Savoy), has been ordered to hold in readiness the means of transporting a little army to the frontiers of Italy.

The Conference on the Danubian Principalities remains disagreed. At the opening, M. Musurus, on behalf of the Sultan, denied that Colonel Couza possessed the legal qualifications indispensable to his election as Hospodar of Moldavia; and protested against the illegality of that election, as well as against his second election for Wallachia, which was effected by the introduction of armed bands of peasants and the intimidation exercised by them over the people. He appealed to the Powers whose representatives signed last year the Convention for the organisation of the Principalities, to maintain it in its integrity.

ITALY.

FROM several sources we hear that the following address was recently made by General Giulai to the garrison of Milan.

"Austrian soldiers: The Emperor calls you round his banners to beat down for the third time the pride of Piedmont, to expel from their den those fanatics who destroy the tranquillity of Europe. Advance against the enemies, who have always fled before you. Remember the victories of 1848 and 1849. Remember Novara, where your foes were dispersed and annihilated. Let your watchword be, 'Viva il Imperatore! Our rights for ever!'"

Cavaliere Massimo d'Azeglio has been sent from Turin to London on a special mission.

Reinforcements continually arrive in Milan and Pavia. Two battalions of Croats appeared in the former city recently.

The volunteers for the Piedmontese service are now said to number 10,000.

In Rome there is much agitation. The Papal Government is preparing an official note relative to the proposed Congress, to be addressed to the great Powers. Passports are given by the Roman authorities to volunteers for Piedmontese service from the States of the Church, but with the intimation they will be regarded as exiles.

The King of Naples appears now to be in a hopeless state of disease. The Hereditary Prince is said to occupy himself much with public business, and there was an expectation that he would soon be appointed Vicar-General of the kingdom.

AUSTRIA.

A NUMEROUS corps d'armée was reviewed at Vienna, on the 8th, in the presence of the Emperor. The troops were most enthusiastic.

The formation of a new battalion of Grenadiers to be attached to the army in Italy, and the augmentation of already-existing battalions by calling in conscripts, &c., has been decided on.

A telegram dated the 8th, informed us that a corps of 50,000 men had been started for Italy; another corps of 60,000 men was to be assembled at Vienna; and a reserve corps of 70,000 men was to be placed in Bohemia and Moravia.

The Vienna journals continue to employ very strong language when speaking of matters connected with Italy; and there is much irritation at the serious manner in which these forced war preparations press upon the finances of the empire.

PRUSSIA.

THE Archduke Albrecht of Austria has arrived at Berlin. He was received at the railway terminus by the civil authorities and the Commander-in-Chief of the army of Berlin. The Archduke repaired to the royal palace, one wing of which was prepared for him.

The official Prussian "Gazette" had a leading article on Monday, declaring that, "in spite of the serious turn which affairs have taken, the efforts of the mediating Powers are not yet to be regarded as terminated, and indeed a step of a mediatorial nature has just been taken by the Prussian Government. Keeping in view the repeated declarations of France of a peaceful tendency, the hope still remains that mediation in the impending difficult questions may possibly be proceeded with."

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

THE Imperial reserve, consisting of 150,000 men, has been summoned to different meeting places, whence it is to be marched to Schumla, there to form the rear-guard of the forces which have been despatched to the north. But half this reserve has deserted, we are told.

From Belgrade it is reported that Prince Milosch will convoke another Skupstchina to raise a levy of 34,000 men. He has established a censorship. The Prince recently received the following note from Prince Gortschakoff, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs:—

"Most Serene Prince.—The Emperor, my master, has deigned to confer upon you the Order of the White Eagle, as a mark of kindness to your Highness, and also to manifest to the Serbian nation the friendship with which he is animated towards its ruler. In sending you the insignia of this Order, I congratulate you at the same time on this mark of attention of my sovereign."

Four of Prince Couza's ministers—Nicholas Gulesco, Catardji, Jean Philipesco, and Demetrius Bratiano—have given in their resignation.

AMERICA.

THE United States and England having failed to come to any definite understanding regarding the right of search or visit—the American Government declining to yield any point, and the English Government refusing to submit any new plan—the French Government has stepped in and submitted a *project*. It merely proposes friendly visitation where there is good cause for suspicion that the vessel is a slave. The United States Government do not object to this, "but they will hold the visiting parties responsible for any misconduct or violation of their maritime rights."

Sir W. G. Ouseley had arrived at Punta Arenas de Costa Rica in her Majesty's steamer *Viceroy* with the Nicaraguan Treaty, which had been signed by that Government. An amendment had been introduced into it to the effect that none of the stipulations of the treaty should be construed as bearing any decision upon the right of Nicaragua to the territory held by the Mosquitos.

There were rumours at Washington that Miramon had entered into arrangements with foreign governments to cede the control of the whole section of Mexico known as the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The administration had the matter before them.

The Nicaraguan government officers have taken forcible possession of two American vessels under the idea that they were filibusters, forcing the officers into small skiffs at the point of the bayonet. The American colours were hauled down, and the Nicaraguan colours hoisted.

Walker was on his way to San Francisco.

A grand filibustering expedition to Cuba was reported to have been organised, secretly.

CHINA.

LORD ELGIN was again at Hong-Kong, having returned on the 22nd of February from Hainan, where he went in her Majesty's steamer *Furious*; but, in consequence of rough weather and the want of a pilot, or proper charts, she did not enter any port. Her Majesty's steamer *Magicienne* left for Singapore on the 20th of February to meet the Hon. Frederick Bruce; it was expected that Lord Elgin would join him at Singapore, on his way home.

A large expedition started from Canton on the 16th of February, up the western branch of the river, and by last accounts they were about 60 miles distant.

According to advices received from Cochin China the French squadron and expeditionary corps had quitted their station, leaving, however, a party of occupation, who had been attacked by the Cochin Chinese with a loss of 200 men on the French side. Rich gold mines had been discovered at Tonquin.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

ADVICES from British Columbia give encouraging accounts as to the mines. Governor Douglas had issued a proclamation declaring Queensborough to be the port of entry.

The colony of Victoria is to be annexed to British Columbia.

Much excitement had been occasioned at Victoria among the citizens of the United States by the authorities not permitting a public salute to be given by the American residents on the 22nd of February in honour of the anniversary of Washington's birthday.

CANADA.

THE new tariff has passed through both houses, and received the assent of the Governor-General. It increases the duties on cotton goods, metals, books, &c. The *ad valorem* principle is adopted. This is expected to give an advantage to direct importation by the St. Lawrence, and is much complained against by merchants who are in the habit of purchasing in New York, and are interested in the American trade.

There have been rumours in circulation that Sir Edmund Head is to be withdrawn, and that he is to be rewarded with a peerage.

INDIA.

A TELEGRAM, dated Calcutta, March 8, gives us the following intelligence:—

"All is quiet in Oude."

"The force under Brigadier Horsford recrossed the Nepal frontier, and encamped on the Raptée. A portion of the troops have subsequently marched for summer quarters."

"The rebels under the Nema and the Begum have crossed the river Gunduck, within the Nepal frontier, apparently with the intention of moving eastward."

"The last returns from Lucknow show that 948 forts have been entirely destroyed, or are under process of demolition, and that 389 cannon and 1,055,889 arms of all sorts have been collected."

"About 6,000 sepoy have surrendered in Oude under the terms of her Majesty's proclamation."

"It is reported that Tantia Topce, under the name of Ram Singh, left the rebel camp near Bikaner, and with ten leading men and 500 followers, joined Rajah Maun Singh at Narwar, in Scindia's territory. It is supposed that he intends making for Jaloun, in Bundelcund."

"The main body of the rebels under Feroze Shah, the Rao, and the Nawab of Kummora, were, by last accounts, making for the jungles of Banwarra. They have been beaten back from the Jeepee Pass, with the loss of one of their leaders, by a guard of the Mairwarra battalion. They are said to number about 3,000, including camp-followers. Brigadier Somerset is in close pursuit, and overtures of surrender have been made to him on the part of some of the rebel leaders."

"Three hundred rebel cavalry, under Paezoor Allee, the principal officer of Feroze Shah, surrendered at Simput on the 27th of Feb."

"A band of rebels under Furzund Allee and Ramnath Singh, surprised, at Etwah, the camp of three railway engineers, who were employed in surveying the Jubbulpore line. Two of them, Messrs. Evans and Limmel, were killed. The third, Mr. Campbell, escaped to Manickpore. General Whitlock has sent out three columns from Nagode against these rebels, and a fourth is in pursuit of them from Banda."

"There is nothing of importance to communicate from the Punjab, North-West Provinces, and Bengal."

The "Madras Times" mentions a rumour, that certain of the leading Hindoos and Mahometans at the Presidency have arranged the preliminaries for a monster anti-missionary meeting. Their Brahmins and Moulvies are to be summoned in large numbers from the Mofussil, to lend the movement the sanction of their authority, and aid it with their counsel and rhetoric. For the redress of their supposed wrongs, and the attainment of their remedy, a memorial is to be presented to the Secretary of State for India.

THE GOVERNOR OF SUEZ has ordered the arrest and punishment of workmen in the quarries engaged by M. de Lesseps; this is the latest rumour.

SOME APPREHENSIONS appear to have existed in America for the safety of Lord Lyons, the new British minister; the vessel in which he sailed was overdue some days.

THE ITALIAN QUESTION.

ENNOY is still suffering the disadvantages of war, with the prospect of having to plunge into the actual struggle at last. The various houses are kept in a martyrdom of rumour—falling before three or four panics a day, and only rising under the influence of one telegram to sink still lower before another. The whole situation is one of irritation and confusion; the only clear element in the matter being, that preparations for war are pushed forward on all sides with extraordinary rapidity and completeness. Not only have Austrian reinforcements poured into Italy daily for several weeks, but an army of 50,000 men is said to have been despatched from Vienna since the 8th instant, while reserve corps on an equally mighty scale are being assembled. Piedmont has now enrolled and organised 10,000 volunteers, to say nothing of her regular forces, respectable in number, and all ready for the fray. The operations of France keep pace with those of the other parties, and they are no longer conducted in secret. "At Antilles on the Var," says the "Globe," "there are 12,000 men; at Grenoble on the Isere, 40,000; at Valence, 30,000; at Lyons, 50,000; at Besancon, 20,000. At Toulon there are transports for 60,000 men and material; and out of the 80,000 in Algiers, it is positively true that 50,000 are expected to be drafted into Italy. Six days are now all that the army require to change quarters from the left bank of the Rhone to the brink of the Ticino." The Emperor has bespoken instant transport on the railway to the Alps for some 25,000 men; and at the ports seamen reserves are called out, and vessels are prepared for the transport of armies. The transport of goods on the southern railway between Trieste and Vienna is to be discontinued at this port, we are told, until the 28th instant.

Military stores are embarked unceasingly night and day at Trieste; even Saints' days are not allowed to interfere with the operations. Shells, cannon shot, biscuits, brandy, flour, oats, wood for the construction of pontoons, palisades, barriers; in a word, the whole of the shore in the vicinity of the railway has been appropriated by the Government.

For all this, some hopes are entertained that the Congress will meet, and settle affairs without bloodshed. The probabilities of this desired consummation have been most variously reported during the week. On Saturday there was a rumour that war had actually been declared at Vienna. On Monday the "Pays" came out with an article intimating that the preliminaries of the Congress had been at length settled, on the basis of a general disarmament. Now, when we go to press, no confirmation of such a hope has reached us.

The disarmament question seems to be the point, however. Austria stipulates that Piedmont should disarm; Piedmont refuses, backed by France. It is suggested that in fairness Austria ought to disarm too. But Austria alleges that she and Piedmont are not precisely in the same conditions in this respect: that it is not merely with the Sardinian Government she has to deal, but with thousands of her own Italian subjects, deserters from her standard, who take up arms against her; with the bands of revolutionists of every colour collected together, and ready to be let loose on her territory; and that while she may treat with a Government, it is too much to expect that she shall treat with Garibaldi and his free lances. And again she says (in the official "Oesterreichische Correspondenz"):—"Willingly would Austria make sacrifices in order to preserve peace, but she cannot do so merely to grant others delay before the commencement of war. The disarming of Piedmont has been stated as a preliminary condition, which condition was supported by England, whilst Austria on the other hand proposed a general disarming as the first act of the Congress, thereby adding a fifth preliminary point to those already proposed. France did not think it possible to make Piedmont disarm alone, and Austria thereupon proposed a general disarming before the Congress began, in order to ensure essential guarantees for the maintenance of peace." But then it is intimated from Paris that a "general disarmament" cannot include France, because France has not armed!—Lastly we hear of another proposition, on the part of Austria: the dispersion or the withdrawal into the interior of the irregular corps that have been formed with deserters and volunteers.

Meanwhile, Sir James Hudson is on his way home from Turin, whence M. Massimo d'Azeglio has been despatched on a mission to Paris and London. A reason for inducing Austria to concede will be found in statements contained in the Brussels journals of the possibility of an outbreak in Hungary, in the event of the Imperial forces there being weakened or drafted off to Italy.

COUNT CAVOUR'S STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

TWO new diplomatic documents from the hand of Count Cavour have appeared. One, addressed to the Marquis d'Azeglio, the Sardinian Minister in London, advocates the Sardinians' right to enter the Congress. The other is more important; it is a memorandum addressed by the Piedmontese Government to the British Government, in reply to a request from Lord Malmesbury for a statement of "the complaints which the Italians have to bring forward against Austria, either on account of her domination over the provinces which she possesses in virtue of treaties, or in consequence of her relations with the States of Central Italy, the abnormal condition of which is admitted by all the Cabinets of Europe."

To this request Count Cavour gives a precise answer. He describes the state of Lombardo-Venetia in forcible terms; shows how the weight of Austrian influence prevents the people of Parma, Modena, and Tuscany from obtaining representative institutions; points out how formidable, in a military sense, is the encroachment of Austria upon other states; and proposes the following change as a means of warding off war and revolution, and solving, for a time at least, the Italian question:—

"By obtaining from Austria—not in virtue of treaties, but in the name of the principles of humanity and of eternal justice—a national and separate government for Lombardy and Venetia. By requiring, in conformity with the letter and spirit of the Treaty of Vienna, that the domination of Austria over the States of Central Italy should cease, and, consequently, that the detached forts constructed outside the walls of Placentia should be destroyed; that the Convention of the 24th of December, 1847 (giving Austria a right to occupy Parma and Modena at will), should be annulled; that the occupation of the Romagna should cease; and that the principle of non-interference should be proclaimed and respected. By inviting the Dukes of Modena and Parma to give to their people institutions similar to those existing in Piedmont, and that the Grand Duke of Tuscany should re-establish the constitution to which he had freely consented in 1848. By obtaining from the Sovereign Pontiff the administrative separation of the provinces beyond the Apennines, in conformity with the propositions communicated in 1856 to the cabinets of London and Paris."

ANOTHER FRENCH MANIFESTO.

THE "Moniteur" has an article, evidently by an inspired pen, on Italian affairs, but addressed to Germans. The attitude taken by the French Government on the Italian question (says this manifesto) far from warranting distrust in the German mind, ought to inspire it with the greatest security:—

"France cannot attack in Germany what she would preserve in Italy. Her policy aims merely at obtaining that satisfaction and those guarantees that are demanded by the right of nations—the happiness of people and the interest of Europe. In Germany, as in Italy, she wishes that nationalities recognised by treaties may be able to maintain and even strengthen themselves, because she considers them as one of the essential bases of European order."

"To represent France as hostile to German nationality is therefore not merely an error; it is nonsense. The Government of the Emperor has always, for the space of ten years, employed the influence it had, in common with others, to smooth down rising difficulties, and resolve them in an equitable and just point of view."

"The policy of France cannot have two weights and two measures; she treats with equity the interests of all peoples. What she desires to have respected in Italy she will know how to respect herself in Germany. It is not we who should be threatened by the example of a national Germany that would bring its federal organisation into harmony with those tendencies towards unity the principle of which has been already laid down in the great countries of the Zollverein. Whatever develops in neighbouring countries relations created by commerce, by industry, by progress, is profitable to civilisation; and whatever enhances civilisation raises France."

This manifesto caused considerable consternation; being very generally regarded as preliminary to a declaration of war.

SCOTLAND.

COIN APPROPRIATION.—A "gentleman," dressed in considerable fashion, arrived at the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling, driving a gig which he had hired in Alloa. Having dined, and made himself comfortable, he informed the waiter, that as he had to visit a gentleman in the neighbourhood, and his gig was a little dusty, he would avail himself of one of Mr. Campbell's machines, with which he would return in an hour or so, when he would say for the conveyance and return to Alloa. He accordingly got possession of a horse and gig—and went off with it.

THE PROVINCES.

SIN IN DEATH.—A man died at the village of Adforton (Herefordshire) the other day, of poison; and whilst on his death-bed accused one Baldwin of having given him naphtha to drink. His depositions were taken, and he died back dead, after putting his "mark" to them. At the inquest evidence was adduced which showed conclusively that the deposition of the dying man was false. The verdict was as follows:—"We find that Thomas Pascoe died from the effects of poison, but what that poison was or who administered it there is no evidence to show, but that probably he took it himself. That the deposition of the deceased is false, and that Clement Baldwin is not in any way implicated in his death."

COLLIERY STRIKE.—The pitmen employed at the New Field and Bingley collieries near Bishop-Auckland, have struck work, on the ground that the tub by which their coals ought to be measured has been removed and a larger one substituted, thereby entailing upon them a greater amount of labour than was anticipated when they entered upon their engagement.

A DANGEROUS LUNATIC.—Charles Gomersal, a young man of Batley near Dewsbury, who appears to have his reason unhinged, made an attempt to murder his mother, on Friday week. He threw her down and was in the act of sawing at her throat with a table knife, when he was interrupted. Removed by force, he made a second attempt, which was again frustrated. He again broke loose, and ran to the village of Carlinghow, a distance of about a mile, and there entered a shop, seized upon a knife, and inflicted a wound on his own throat; but did not succeed in doing much harm to himself. He was taken into custody, and carried to the workhouse at Dewsbury, where he now lies. His mother, though severely wounded, is not in danger.

POISONING HOLY WATER.—Two boys, one aged fifteen years, the other sixteen, were charged at Liverpool last week with putting chromate of potash (a deadly poison) into the holy-water font in the Catholic Church, Backstreet. The culprits were employed at a soap manufactory, where the chromate is used to bleach palm-oil. The adulteration was discovered by the "slippery" state of the water; by its causing a burning sensation on the forehead of those who used it, and by its destroying the texture of a woman's handkerchief, and by its colour, which was red. The boys said they did it to daub the faces of the people, not knowing that the stuff was poisonous. They were ordered each to find two sureties of £10 each to be of good behaviour, or in default to be imprisoned for six months.

MURDER AND RIOT AT CARDIFF.—Michael Donovan, a tobaccoist, residing in Adam Street, Newtown (Cardiff), had been drinking at a public-house, and his wife went to fetch him home. An altercation arose, which ended in an exchange of blows between the wife and Mrs. Matthews, the landlady, and a policeman was called in to clear the house. The man and wife went home, where the quarrel was renewed. Cries of "Murder" were heard, and a little girl ran out saying that her father was killing her mother. A constable ran up to the spot, and at the door met Donovan, who said he wished to give himself up for killing his wife. The poor woman was still beating, but before medical assistance could be obtained she expired, as far as can be ascertained, from the effects of blows. The prisoner was removed to the principal police-station, and soon the police found it expedient to remove Mrs. Matthews there also for safety; for the inhabitants of the vicinity, principally dock labourers, had become excited by reports of the occurrence in the tavern. In fact a most determined attack was made on the public-house, resulting in the destruction of doors, windows, and a considerable quantity of furniture. A detachment of police with difficulty cleared the premises, but could not prevent a continued discharge of stones and other missiles being kept up for hours, until there was not a vestige of glass left in a row of houses said to be the property of Matthews. Even on Tuesday the spot was surrounded by hundreds of people, who vowed that they would not leave one stone on another; and the services of several policemen were required to keep them back.

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE BY A COLLIERY ACCIDENT.

At the Main Colliery, near Bryncren, Glamorganshire, some men unfortunately struck into workings of an old mine, and the water began to flow again. The men lost no time in attempting to plug the hole, but their efforts proved fruitless. The water gained on them with a rapidity that completely hurled them back by its volume and pressure. The alarm was given, and there was a general rush to the mouth of the shaft, the only way of escape. Not a moment was lost in bringing up the men. Tram after tram was sent down, with the greatest possible speed, and in a short time fifty-five men and boys and two horses were rescued. But the water gained on the miners, and about twenty-five of them perished. The scene at the mouth of the pit was most heartrending.

As soon as it was found that no more men could be saved, two powerful engines were set to pump, and the trams were converted into water-tubs. These were sent up and down by the engines with marvellous speed, and brought up as many as 432 gallons per minute. Considering that the cutting is ninety-five fathoms in depth, this was deemed very good work. In addition to this, another powerful engine was set in motion, which pumped out 900 gallons per minute; but unfortunately the depth of the water was little diminished. As a proof of the rapid manner in which the pit was flooded, we may mention that in two hours the water attained the height of sixty-three feet. Some of the men and boys saved had a very narrow escape. One boy saved himself by clinging to a horse's tail. A horse, having reached the shaft in time, instinctively jumped in as one of the tubs reached the bottom. Another horse did the same, and by clinging to his tail, he saved his life. The Government Inspector of Collieries arrived at the pit next morning, and made a minute inspection. We are told that he fully approved the expedients resorted to to drain off the water; until this is accomplished the bodies in the pit cannot be recovered, of course.

MYSTERIOUS MURDER AT RAMSGATE.

The body of a Russian, or German, about thirty-five years of age, was found on the sands under the East Cliff, Ramsgate, on Monday morning, stabbed in the heart, and with the left hand chopped off. The body was perfectly naked, but most of the clothes of the deceased have been found upon the sands. The whole affair is very mysterious. All that we can gather from the investigation before the coroner (adjourned) is as follows:—

The deceased arrived at the Royal Oak hotel on Saturday. He had a carpet-bag and an umbrella, and it was noticed that he had several rings on his fingers, and that he wore his boots over his trousers. His left hand was bound with a surgical bandage, and he appeared anxious to hide it. He appeared like a seafaring man, and when, on leaving the hotel on Sunday morning, he discharged his bill, it was seen that he had a considerable sum of money in his portmanteau.

In the afternoon of Sunday he seems to have gone prowling about in search of bad company, and to have been assisted into it by a man named Gibbs, a labourer, to whom the deceased showed a large sum of money—forty or fifty pounds. At seven o'clock in the evening he was seen walking on the cliff, near the base of which he was afterwards found dead. He had an umbrella with him, but no carpet-bag. This was the last time he was seen alive, save by his murderers.

The body was discovered at the edge of the water, which washed over it. All his clothes were found, part in one place, part in another. There was no blood upon them, and no cut to correspond with the wound in the left breast. The wristbands of the shirt had been torn off, and the boots had been cut about two inches shorter. A hatchet marked with blood was also found on the rocks; and portions of a man's hand, the fingers being separated from it. The hand, when the fingers were placed in position, showed several cuts on the inner side. A surgeon gave it as his opinion that the deceased might have inflicted the wound in the breast himself. He could not say positively whether the hand was taken off before or after death. It was possible for the deceased to have cut off his hand as well as stabbed himself. The knife had been moved after entering the body, as the wound in the heart was at least three inches in length. There were no signs of the deceased having been drugged. As we have said, the inquiry was adjourned for a week.

GENERAL VAN GUNNEL.—A veteran of eighty-four—who commanded at Waterloo the combined Belgian and Dutch artillery, is charged with killing his mistress and her maid with a poisoned sausage.

LOSS OF THE BRITISH GUNBOAT JASEUR.

The gunboat *Jaseur*, with a complement of fifty-six men and officers, was lost on the night of the 26th ult., on the Rio Condor Reefs, while on her way from Port Royal to Greytown. Lieutenant Scott, the commander, thus reports the vessel's loss:—

"This event took place at 10.30 p.m., on the night of the 26th of February, while on our way to Greytown from Port Royal, Jamaica, having been set by a strong current on the Rio Condor Reefs, and before morning the vessel proved a complete wreck. At eight a.m., of the 27th we were compelled to abandon the ship, with the boats and a raft we had made during the night, and from the ship filling so fast we were unable to obtain a sufficient supply of provisions or of water. I determined to make the best of my way to Port Royal, but, owing to the inclemency of the weather, we made no progress during the two following days.

"On the third day we had the misfortune to have one of the boats upset, by which accident ten lives were lost. During the day, the weather moderating, a consultation was held by myself and officers, when it was determined to take the men off the raft into the boats, parting company, each to make the best of his way to Jamaica, and on reaching this or being picked up by any ship, to send assistance to the others. But having no instruments or charts, we were unable to determine our position or make Jamaica; and after ten days' pulling and sailing to the northward, found ourselves off the eastward head of the Doce Lagunas Cayo, and were most kindly received by two Spanish fishermen, who supplied our immediate wants, and next morning piloted us to Santa Cruz, where we were most hospitably received by the captain of the port, who immediately despatched a launch to search the caves, in hopes of finding our missing boats.

"The officers and men in the boat with me (twenty in number) are beginning to recover from the effects of their severe sufferings during the ten days we were exposed in the boats, eight of which were passed without water."

SIR JOHN PAKINGTON'S DIFFICULTY.

The little difficulty which Sir John Pakington was called upon in the House of Commons to explain, on Tuesday evening, is thus set forth by the "Times":—

"Sir Henry Leeke, a fine old Yellow Admiral verging in point of years upon the canonical three score and ten, has been called to the Admiralty Board for distinguished service—which is expected of him. In return for his appointment, he has undertaken the duty of cutting out Mr. Bernal Osborne at Dover. Captain Carnegie, on the other hand, has been dismissed from his office because he showed slackness in engaging the enemy."

"The following are the rumours in circulation—Captain Carnegie, it is said, was sent for by Sir John Pakington and informed that he was expected to go down to Dover and contest the seat for that borough against Mr. Bernal Osborne. Carnegie replied, 'that he was a seaman, not a politician; that when he had accepted office under Lord Derby's Government no such condition was expressed or implied, and that he would not engage himself in a business for which he considered himself unfit.' Sir John Pakington thereupon intimated to Captain Carnegie that, failing to win a seat in the House, he must resign his seat at the Admiralty, and the gallant officer accepted the latter alternative. The same kind of proposition was subsequently made to the two Vice-Admirals, Martin and Dundas. They also declined, and they also—each in turn—'tendered' their resignations. The predicament was an awkward one; now one, now the other, was solicited to remain, until after a certain amount of negotiation the affair terminated, as far as the two Vice-Admirals were concerned, by a withdrawal of the offensive proposition. Sir John Pakington was compelled to acquiesce in his defeat, and agreed to say no more about Dover, if only the two naval Lords would consent to remain. Captain Carnegie, however, was dealt with as the Jonah of the transaction, and was thrown overboard. Then it was that the veteran Leeke was summoned to council. Would he consent to serve Lord Derby, and to contest Dover? He would! His services to the country have not been much to boast of, but he will serve Lord Derby at the narrowest point of the narrow seas."

ALTERATION AND CONVERSION IN THE NAVY.

In consequence of Lord Clarence Paget's motion respecting the alleged wasteful expenditure in the government dockyards, the Lords of the Admiralty issued directions to Sir Baldwin Walker, Surveyor of the Navy, to inquire into the subject and prepare a report. This report has been published. Among the points to which he was to direct special attention, were the assertions made with respect to the *Racer*, *Lyra*, *San Fiorenzo*, and several other ships, that their designs had been needlessly altered at great cost while on the stocks, and in some cases that ships had been partially built and then taken to pieces again for no reason. Sir Baldwin says that the *Racer* and *Lyra* were never altered at all; the *San Fiorenzo* had only a few timbers temporarily fastened together with screw bolts when she was taken to pieces. With regard to the *Immortalité*, it was stated that she was first lengthened amidships, then five feet by the bow, and afterwards fifteen feet by the bow. It appears that the ship was originally laid down as a fifty-gun sailing frigate, and was, when partially built, ordered to be converted into a screw frigate. With a view of deciding the real value of great length in ships of this class she was subsequently lengthened again, the difference in the expense of doing this in two operations instead of one, being no more than £250. The only ship which, during the last eleven years, was designed as a steamer and subsequently altered, was the *Howe*, and the whole expense which the operation entailed was £380.

The report next alludes to the alleged surplus of £5,000,000 which have, during the last eleven years, been voted, but not accounted for. The alleged votes during the ten years 1848 to 1858, amounted to £19,309,944, but the actual votes were £22,306,937. This would at the first glance appear to make the case worse against the Admiralty; but although the alleged expenditure was only a little more than £14,000,000, Sir B. Walker has prepared an elaborate return, accounting for the whole £22,000,000 within a few thousands. The expense incurred in foreign yards, the stores sent thither, the pay of extra artificers, the expense of cables, buoys, cranes, capstans, and so forth, are a few of the heads of expenditure overlooked in Lord Clarence Paget's calculation.

STEAMSHIP COLLISION.—The General Steam Navigation Company's steamer, *Bruiiser*, with passengers and a general cargo, from London, was proceeding up the Tyne on Thursday evening of last week, and when near a sharp angle in the river, some two miles from Newcastle, came in collision with the *Britannia* steamer. Such was the injury sustained by the latter vessel that her fore compartment speedily began to fill with water, and she gradually settled down. The passengers and crew, however, had ample opportunity to escape. The *Bruiiser* sustained but trifling damage.

STATISTICS OF SUICIDE.—During the five years 1852-56 a total number of 5,415 suicides were committed in England and Wales. It appears that of the various modes of effecting self-murder among males, hanging is the commonest. Next in order of frequency is cutting the throat. Drowning stands third in the list, and poisoning fourth. Among females, also, hanging is the most frequent method of suicide; drowning comes next; and poisoning third. In both sexes, suicide first occurs between the 10th and 15th year; and it predominates most from 45 to 55. Ten different forms of poison are named as being made use of by male suicides, and 17 by females.

A ROMANCE OF MURDER.—An extraordinary sensation was caused at Munich a few days ago by the trial of a gentleman named Ferner, on the charge of having shot dead a young lady, named Sanguinetti. Ferner, who, though only twenty-two years of age, is a doctor of civil law of the University of Munich, author of a highly-esteemed work on Roman law, and who besides is skilled in painting and music, made the acquaintance of Mlle. Sanguinetti at a ball; she was the daughter of an eminent sculptor. He fell in love with her, and was allowed by her parents to pay his addresses. She appeared to receive him with favour, but when, after the lapse of a few weeks, he proposed marriage, she returned an evasive reply, and she afterwards said to some of her friends—in order to have it repeated to him—that, though she entertained a high esteem for his character and talents, she did not think he was rich enough to give her the position in society to which she thought herself entitled. He now became more pressing, and met with a decided refusal; he was told not to visit her again. At this time he was summoned to the town of Aserole, where his parents reside, and he sent a message to Mlle. Sanguinetti that if before his departure she would not give him an interview, he would commit suicide. Alarmed at this threat, she agreed to meet him in her father's garden. Shortly after she had gone to him in the garden a report of a pistol was heard. M. and Madame Sanguinetti rushed out with lights, and found their daughter lying on the ground bathed in blood; she had been shot in the heart. An hour later, Ferner gave himself into the custody of the police as the murderer of the young lady. After perpetrating the crime, he had, he said, gone to the English garden with the intention of committing suicide; but the idea that suicide was a crime suddenly occurred to him, and he preferred giving himself up to justice. He added that, resolving to murder the young lady and then to commit suicide, he hoped to be united to her after death. After the preceding facts had been stated to the court, the inquiry was made if the man were sound in his mind. Medical men said he was; and he himself declared that he considered himself sane, neither had he ever heard that any member of his family had been afflicted with insanity. The jury declared that he had killed the young lady, but without deliberate premeditation, and the court condemned him to be imprisoned for twelve years in a fortress.

MR. BRIGHT'S SCHEME OF REFORM.

In a letter to the Parliamentary Reform Committee, Mr. Bright again explains his intended bill:—

"With regard to the franchise, I propose, in counties, to extend the right of voting to all occupiers of the value of £10 and upwards, with the proviso that in every such occupancy not less than £6 of the value shall be in a dwelling-house. The object of this is to prevent the fabrication of fictitious votes by pretended lettings of land where no real tenancy may exist."

"I propose to extend the right of voting (possessed by freeholders of the value of 40s. and upwards), in England and Wales, to Scotland, and to place the elective rights of freeholders in Scotland upon the same footing as in England and Wales in every respect."

"With regard to the borough franchise, I propose the present municipal franchise with two variations. The municipal franchise is now possessed by every man who is a ratepayer, whether his rates are paid by himself or by his landlord, and without regard to the value of the property he occupies, or the amount of his rating. I propose to adopt the same arrangement down to a certain point; that is, I would give the vote to all persons rated at not less than £3, or occupying to the value of not less than £1 per annum, whether the rates are paid by the tenant or by the landlord. Below that point, in order not to exclude any industrious and frugal man, wishful to have a vote, I would allow any person, being a rated occupier, to secure his vote by undertaking to pay and by paying his own rates. This is the only test I would apply, and I think its effect would be to exclude none but such as are not likely to have any independence, and such as are utterly careless as to the possession of a vote."

"The Municipal Act requires a residence of two years and eight months before a person can be placed upon the Burgess roll. This is done by a clause inserted in the House of Lords, and was a concession of the House of Commons to the apprehensions of the Peers. It assumes to be directed specially against the poor, and to be conservative in its character; whilst, in fact, it acts almost equally upon every class, lessening the number of burgesses, without being a guarantee for their independent character, or for their superiority in any respect."

"I propose to adhere to the present term of residence for parliamentary electors—that is, to have a twelve months' residence. This is, in fact, a sixteen months' residence, for no person can now be placed on the register, which comes into force on the 1st of December, in any year, who was not in occupation of his premises on the 31st of July of the year preceding; and if his occupation began on the 1st of August, his residence must be two years and four months before he can give a vote. Under the present law, the occupation of every person who becomes entitled to vote will vary from sixteen months to twenty-eight months, or an average of twenty-two months. Surely this is long enough, and nothing but ignorance of the law and the facts, or a dread of numbers, can induce any man to wish for any longer period of residence."

"In addition to this general proposition to extend the right of voting in boroughs, I propose to give the franchise to occupiers of apartments; that is, to lodgers, paying a rent of not less than £10 per annum, subject to the same period of residence as in the case of rated occupiers, and whether the rent be paid half-yearly or at any shorter period."

"To all voters, whether in counties or boroughs, I would give the ballot, and my bill provides for the appointment of a commission to decide upon the best means of securing secrecy, and expedition, and order, in the taking of votes at elections; that is, to discover the best system of voting by ballot."

"I need not now enter into any details about the disfranchisement of small boroughs and the re-distribution of seats. My schedules have been and are before the public. They regard them as extreme and hurtful are they who wish the House of Commons to be the conjuditor of the House of Lords, rather than a fair representation of the people. I believe the time will come when my propositions on this point will be considered as moderate as I now believe them to be just."

On Tuesday night, Mr. Bright addressed the people of Manchester on the same subject. The most remarkable part of his speech was that in which he avowed that he would have no objection to work with Lord John Russell on this question. Lord Palmerston he altogether distrusted; but as for Lord John Russell—

"Only a few nights ago, he made a brief explanation of the sort of idea which was floating in his mind as to the kind of measure which he would think it desirable for a government to propose, and which I presume if he were minister, he would be willing to propose. He said he was for a £10 qualification in the counties. I think in the last bill he proposed that at least half of that value—and I have reason to believe that he would agree to something more than half—should consist of a dwelling-house, in order to make it more difficult to create fictitious votes. With regard to the boroughs, he is willing to give every man who lives in a house of the value of £6 rental per annum a vote for the borough in which he may live. This is not the franchise which I was ready to propose, but still it would be very unfair to depreciate the offer that has been made, and to say that it is not very much in advance of every offer that has been previously made by any statesman in the position of Lord John Russell. If such a bill as that were introduced, it would of course be open for every man who thought that a further extension was desirable, to propose such a change as he thought proper—for example, the clauses that I have introduced into my bill, or any other clauses that might carry out his view—and I should be extremely glad if a majority of Parliament would agree to some further extension; at the same time, I think it would be unjust to Lord John Russell, and unfair to the question, if we were to persuade ourselves, or to endeavour to persuade others, that that proposition would not be an infinitely better proposition for the country than half a hundred of those fancy franchises about which so much has been said."

As to secret voting, although Lord John Russell was opposed to it, "he would at least stand out of the way, and be no obstacle to the adoption of the ballot in any bill that may receive the sanction of Parliament."

On Wednesday, Mr. Bright addressed the people of Rochdale on behalf of Mr. Cobden.

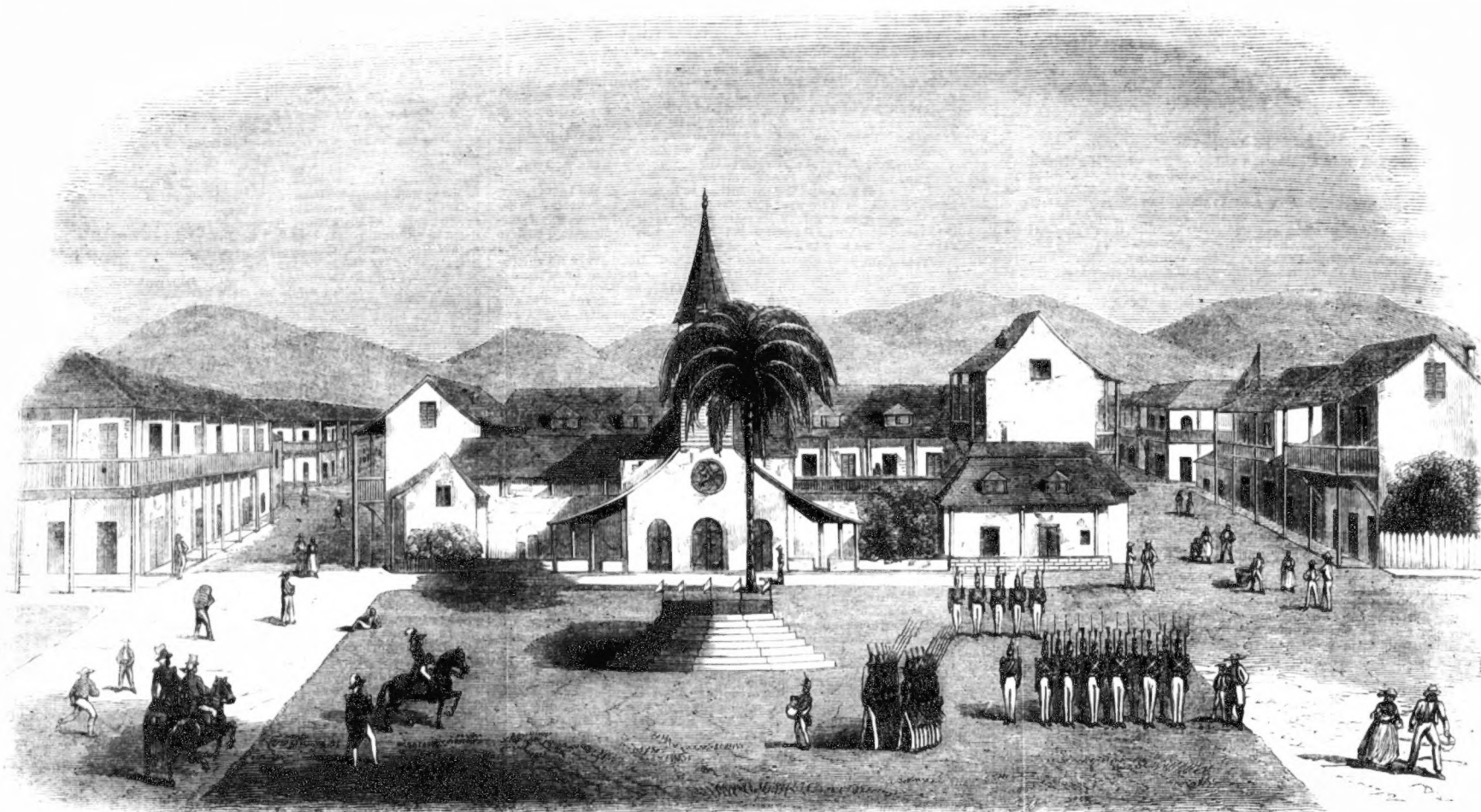
MR. MAURICE, until recently manager of the Port Macdo Branch of Messrs. Cassons and Co.'s Bank, has been committed for trial on a charge of stealing six hundred pounds from the bank safe.

THE MARTYR OF ERROMANGA.—A missionary now in Erromanga was recently shown the oven "in which the body of Mr. Williams was cooked;" and he (the missionary) says he hopes to be able to obtain the martyr's skull; which it seems has been preserved. Ovalou, who killed Mr. Williams, is "now attending regularly to instruction;" and from his account as well as from that of other natives, in appears that the missionary party was killed, because they persisted in going up the river, toward a spot where food for a feast had been stored. The natives, warned by previous forays by white men, thought the missionaries had designs on their provisions, and killed them accordingly.

INDIAN RELIEF FUND.—According to a report which the committee administering these funds have recently issued, the total sum which they had expended up to the end of 1858 was £176,710, of which £127,286 had been transmitted to India, and £42,948 accounted to sufferers in Britain. Thirty-eight officers have received £5,555; 99 officers' widows, £11,284; 26 officers' orphans, £1,473; 25 officers' wives, £2,434; 31 officers' relatives, £3,534; 38 relatives of soldiers and sailors, £641; 150 disabled soldiers and sailors, £326; and 394 widows and 344 children of soldiers and sailors, £4,694 (on weekly allowance). The military loans amount to £4,533, making, with £27,924, the amount of the donations, a sum total of £32,457. The civil class donations included £979 to 11 clergymen and missionaries, £916 to six widows of clergymen, £100 to one wife of a missionary, £1,781 to 26 widows and orphans of "unconquered" civilians, and £4,836 to 81 indigo planters, merchants, and railway employees. The civil loans included loans of £985 to eight merchants and their relatives, £311 to six widows and relatives of railway servants, £50 each to two widows, £100 to one landowner, £331 to three orphans of traders, and £50 to one "unconquered" civil officer of government. The number of soldiers' and sailors' widows in Great Britain in receipt of the benefits of the fund is, about this time, 520, and 670 children. The average yearly payment for each family may be taken at £20, making a total outlay of £10,400 per annum. The gross expenditure, including all kinds of relief, is estimated at £15,482.

THE RESIDENCE OF GENERAL GEFFRARD.

GENERAL GEFFRARD, the liberator of Hayti, has now placed himself at the tail of the pantheon of human celebrities, and in that position has some claim on the attention of our readers. A correspondent has forwarded to us a view of the republican hero's residence at Aux-larges, a commercial town in the Island of Hayti, pleasantly situated on the sea coast with a good sheltered harbour. The space in front of the building is the *Place d'Armes*, covered with a beautiful green sward, on which the General delights to exercise the half a score of troops forming the presidential guard of honour. In the centre of the square there is a kind of amphitheatre, used for the purpose of addressing the soldiers in time of war; and it was from this tribune that Geffrard urged the army to trample in the dust the imperial purple of his negro majesty Soulouque.



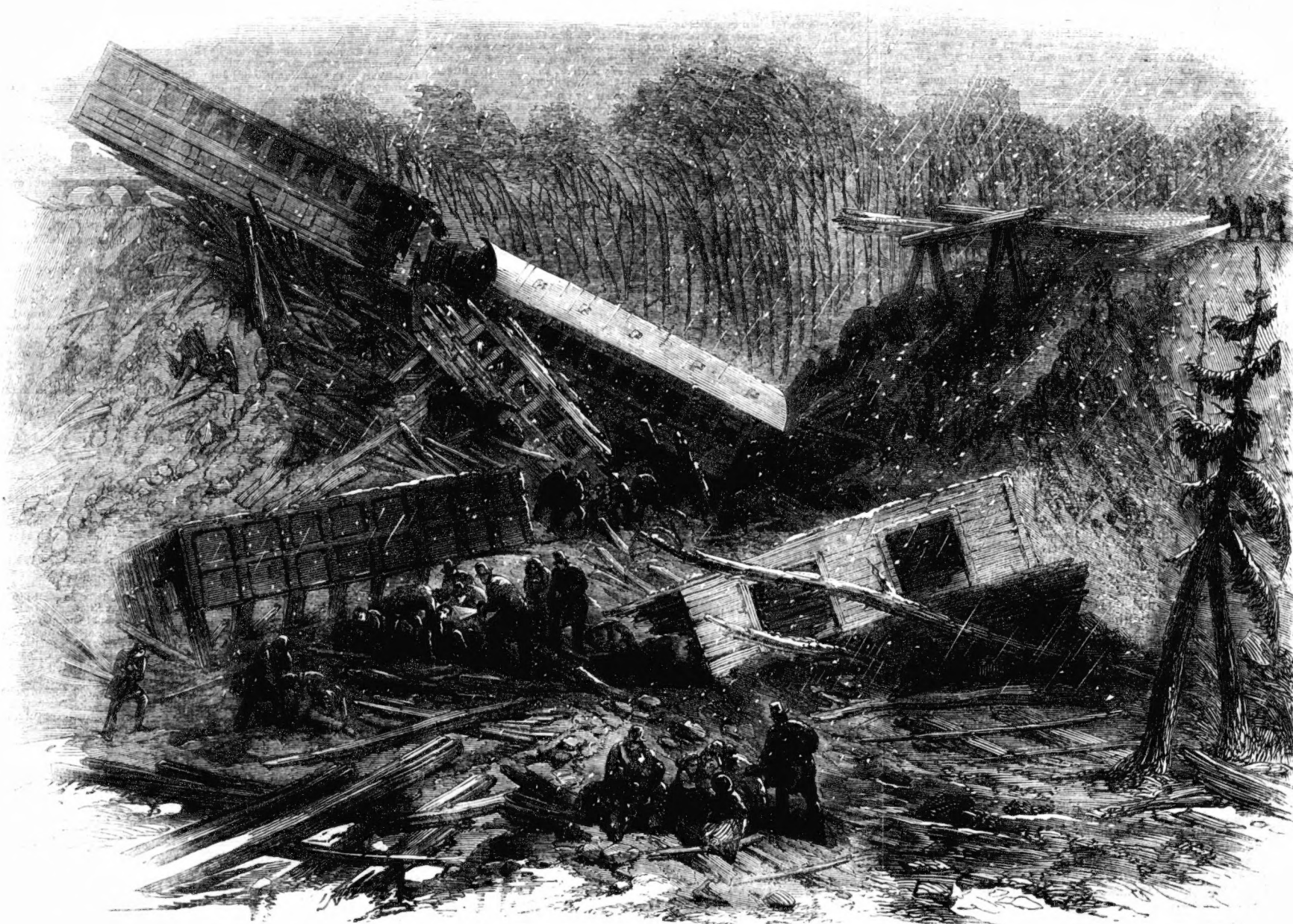
THE RESIDENCE OF GENERAL GEFFRARD AT AUXLARGES.—(FROM A SKETCH BY EDUARDO MANGONES.)

THE ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OF CANADA.

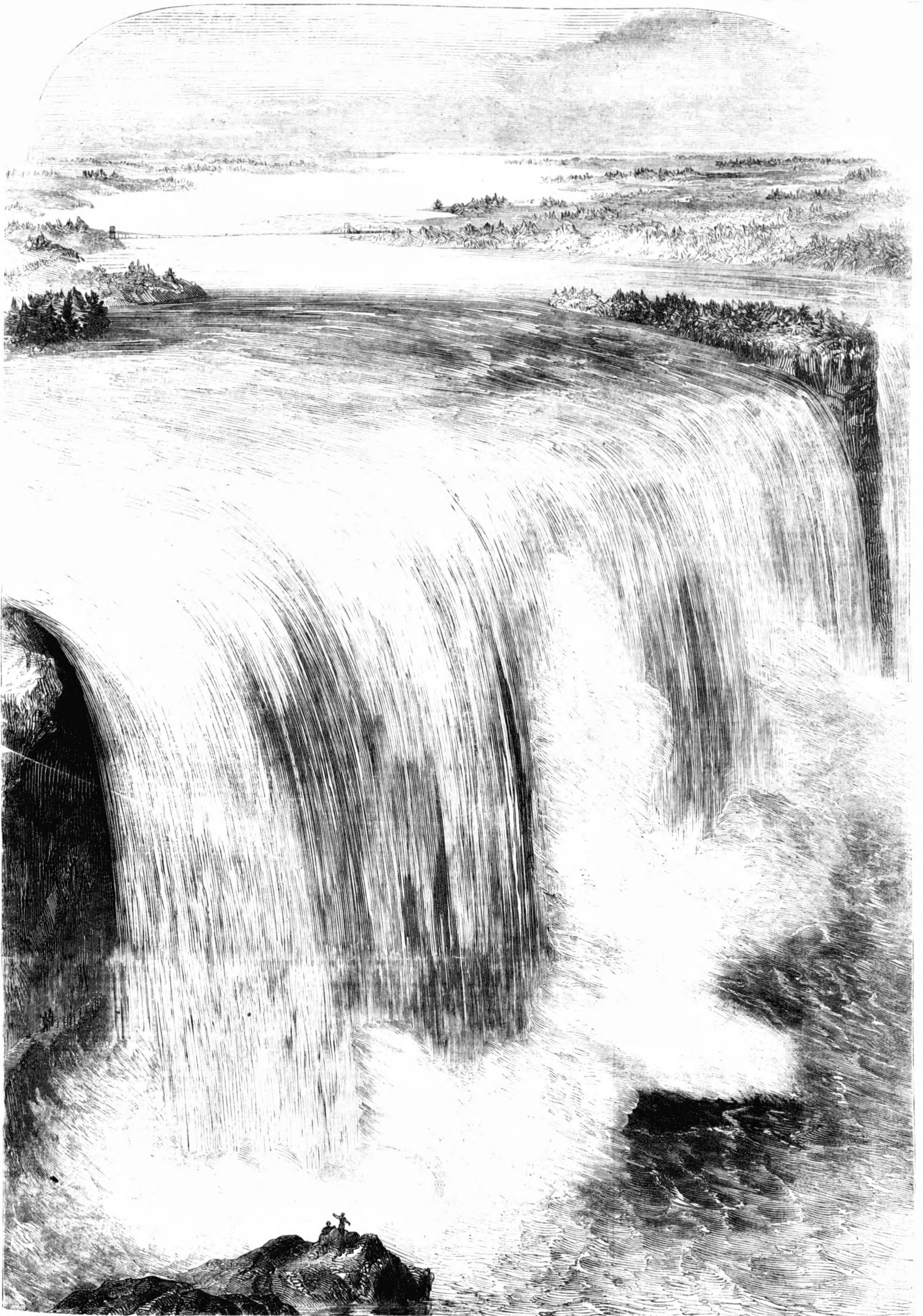
LAST week we published an account of an accident of a most fearful character that happened on the Great Western Railway of Canada, between Flamborough and Dundas. The obliging courtesy of a correspondent enables us to present our readers in this impression with an

engraving of the catastrophe, from a sketch taken shortly after its occurrence. The scene is represented as more horrible than that at Desjardin's Bridge. From later advices we are in a position to give the verdict of the jury who had remitted to them for consideration the cause of the melancholy event. It sets forth at great length the whole particulars, but the gist of the matter is contained in the following words:—"Had there been either a culvert or efficient

drain at the spot, the disaster would not have occurred." The jury say that the general arrangements of the company are well adapted for the security of the passengers; but that their watchfulness was not adequate to guard against such a storm as that which occasioned the accident. They say no culpability or negligence attaches to the conductors or other employes in charge of the train, and that every possible assistance was rendered that could be devised.



ACCIDENT ON THE CANADA GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY, NEAR DUNDAS.



THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.

CROSSING NIAGARA ON STILTS.

THE "Spirit of the Times" is an American paper; and not only so, but it is a journal of a sporting character—"fast" and slangy beyond anything of the kind which we possess, even. These facts incline us to look with all the more suspicion on the following story, which is told by one of the "Dear Spirit's" correspondents. A young Yankee tumbler and contortionist, named Morelli, boasting of his genius, declared that he would cross the Niagara river on stilts—amid the foaming and unsounded rapids that whirl between Goat Island and the Falls. A Southern gentleman, who was present, ridiculed Morelli; and offered a wager of a thousand dollars to fifty that the Signor would not do it. He accepted the wager, and thus the performance of the feat is described:—

"He had with him a pair of stilts about twelve feet long, made of wrought-iron, flat, sharp-edged, and pointed, shaped, in fact, almost precisely like a double-edged dagger. These were firmly lashed to his legs, and he walked towards the river with a confident smile. At ten minutes past seven he stepped into the water, which, in another moment, was boiling, surging, and rushing beneath his feet. The boldest of the lookers-on held their breath in suspense as the daring man receded from the shore. He alone seemed unmoved, and passed on slowly and carefully, avoiding the larger rocks which were made apparent by the eddying current. His steps at first were very short and carefully made, but afterwards became bolder and longer. The stilts, of course, were so placed that the current struck only against their sharp edges, and produced but little effect; but the danger from sunken rocks, and the conviction that a single false step would send him to death, produced a feeling which was horribly painful. Once or twice he seemed to lose his balance, and a sickening shudder ran through each one of the beholders. Recovering himself, he still kept on—still receding, until, to our straining eyes, he could scarcely be distinguished from the foaming waters. The middle of the river was attained at last: hours seemed to have fled, but it was barely seventeen minutes since he left the shore. As he approached the deepest and most dangerous part of his route, the suspense became more fearfully intense. No word was spoken, except that one man offered another five dollars for a moment's use of his opera-glass, which offer passed unheeded. Just as Morelli reached the swiftest and deepest part of the current, he seemed to totter—sink—he threw up his arms! I closed my eyes. Opening them a moment after, I saw that he was still standing. A few moments more, and he had reached the Canadian bank—he was safe, and fell exhausted into the arms of two men who were waiting to receive him. He has nearly recovered, and, though still in bed, received the congratulations of dozens of visitors who came pouring in. He left the American shore 950 feet above the fall, and came out about 1,000 feet above the Canadian."

If such a feat was really performed, Signor Morelli is entitled to bear the palm from all foolhardy heroes. The reader who refreshes his notions of Niagara by the engraving on the preceding page, will be of this opinion too.

ELECTION ADDRESSES.

LORD PALMERSTON AND TIVERTON.

LORD PALMERSTON has issued an address to the electors of Tiverton, in which he says:—

"Her Majesty's Ministers proposed to the House of Commons a bill for Amending the Laws relating to the Representation of the People in Parliament, and the provisions and arrangements of that bill were such that they were more or less condemned by almost every member who, on either side of the House, during a seven nights' debate, expressed his sentiments on the subject.

"There were, however, two prominent points of the bill which, by a resolution that was proposed previously to the second reading of the bill, were specially referred to as objectionable. The one was the proposal that the owners of freeholds should in future be deprived of their vote for their respective counties. The other was, that no provision was made in the bill for any extension of the suffrage in boroughs by a reduction of the borough qualification.

"This resolution having been carried by a majority of the whole House of Commons, the Ministers determined to consider it as a censure of their conduct, and to regard it as an intended proof that they do not possess the confidence of the House of Commons; and they have, in consequence, advised Her Majesty to dissolve the present Parliament, and to recur to the sense of her people on the matter.

"The question, therefore, submitted to the judgment of the electors of the United Kingdom, is whether the bill proposed by the Government was good or bad, and whether the Government was right in proposing such a bill, or whether the majority of the House of Commons were right in disapproving of it.

"This question having been put to the electors of the United Kingdom, I cannot doubt what their answer will be.

"I think, however, that the Government would have done far better had it yielded to the expressed opinion of the House of Commons—an opinion expressed in debate even more strongly and generally than by the resolution which was carried.

"The present Ministers undertook last year the government of the country, avowing that their supporters were a minority of the House of Commons. An Administration so circumstanced holds office on the condition of shaping its course in conformity with the declared opinions of the majority, unless in a case in which that majority may require something which would be forbidden by considerations of public duty or by regard for the principles of the constitution. But on the present occasion it was not the House of Commons that was endeavouring to force upon the Ministers a measure inconsistent with the established principles of the constitution; on the contrary, it was the Ministers who were proposing to the House of Commons measures which even their own supporters objected to, as ill-judged innovations upon ancient and fundamental arrangements of our representative system, and which two members of the Cabinet deemed to be so unadvisable that they resigned their offices rather than be parties to making such proposals to Parliament.

"The Ministers might, instead of putting the country to the inconvenience and expense of a general election, have withdrawn their objectionable bill, and have proposed another, framed in conformity with the views of the large majority of the House of Commons; and there can be little doubt that such a measure would have passed into law in the present session, and there seems good reason to believe that it would have been satisfactory to the country. Such a course would have been in accordance with that which they successfully pursued last year in regard to the India Bill; and no valid reason has been assigned by them for not adopting it on the present occasion.

"Her Majesty's Ministers, however, have stated that, in their opinion, their choice lay between advising a dissolution of Parliament and tendering to Her Majesty the resignation of their offices; and that one reason why they chose the first of these alternatives was, that they deemed their continuance in office essential to the success of those negotiations in which the Crown is now engaged with a view to the preservation of the peace of Europe. But the course which they have pursued is evidently calculated to weaken their hands in regard to those negotiations.

"A Government of this country, to be listened to with deference abroad, ought to have strength and stability at home; and foreign Powers ought to see in the probability of its duration a security for the continuance of the policy on which, as representing the British crown, it is acting.

"But the present Administration exhibits itself to Europe at the outset of an approaching Congress as having an irreconcilable difference with Parliament, of whose assistance it will have deprived itself during what may be a critical period of the negotiation; while that confidence of the country which, so long as no expression of public opinion was asked for, might have been assumed to exist, may possibly, by the result of the elections, be found not to belong to the present Administration.

"The course, therefore, which Her Majesty's Government have determined to pursue, does not appear to be borne out by any of the reasons which have been put forward for its justification."

MR. BRIGHT AND THE BIRMINGHAM ELECTORS.

The following is Mr. Bright's address to his constituents of Birmingham:—

"The Government of Lord Derby has advised the Queen to dissolve the Parliament, because the House of Commons has rejected the bill introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to amend the representation of the people. In Parliamentary language the words 'to amend' do not mean 'to improve,' and, in the case of the bill just rejected, I only express my honest and undoubting conviction when I say that it would be difficult to contrive a measure more calculated to disturb and damage what we now possess of popular representation, than that which the House of Commons has refused to pass. Its evident object was to lessen what remains of independence in our county constituencies, and to give the means of utterly destroying the independence of all the largest boroughs—whilst it ventured

upon the dangerous experiment of condemning the great body of the industrious, or wages-receiving class, to a perpetual exclusion from the possession of the elective franchise. It was a measure conceived, not in the spirit of a statesman, but in that of a cunning party political agent; it sought permanently to subject the people and the destinies of England to the supremacy of a class whose political triumphs are the disasters, and whose defeats are the gains, which mark the course of humanity and freedom amongst us. Lord Derby is not content with the judgment of the House of Commons, and he appeals to the constituencies of the United Kingdom. Let me remind you that the fate and future of Reform do not depend on the course to be taken by particular statesmen. Parliamentary leaders, or they who affect to be such, may assist or retard the march of great questions; but public opinion, as expressed by public meetings, by petitions, through the press, and at the poll, is the omnipotent influence to which the Legislature must bow, and which Parliamentary majorities will follow. It is to the people themselves that I look for an answer to the appeal of Lord Derby. They can say—imperfect as is their representation now—whether little more than one million of electors are sufficient in a population containing seven millions of men; whether it is fitting that our great cities and towns shall have a voice in the House of Commons, but a voice almost without power, by reason of the existence of some scores of small boroughs necessarily without influence in everything in the country except in Parliamentary divisions; and whether it is just that electors should be subjected to every variety of hardship in the exercise of their right to vote, when the simple arrangement of the ballot would liberate them from insult and from wrong. To the existing constituencies the appeal is now made. Upon their verdict will depend the question whether the representation of the people in Parliament shall now be made, in some degree, consistent with reason, with truth, and with the national interest; or whether that great object shall be obtained at some more distant day, after, it may be, years of irritating but inevitable discontent and agitation."

LORD JOHN RUSSELL AND THE CITY CONSTITUENCY.

In his address to the electors of London, Lord John Russell says:—

"Her Majesty's Ministers, early in the session, introduced a so-called Reform Bill. Among the defects of the bill, which were numerous, one provision was conspicuous by its presence, and one by its absence; a non-resident right of voting in boroughs was introduced. By this means fictitious votes would have been created, and the abuses so prevalent before the enactment of the Reform Bill would have been revived. A small borough is not necessarily corrupt or servile, but under this bill it would easily have become one or the other. By the same clause freeholders whose property was in boroughs were deprived of their votes for the country: life interests only were respected. In this manner the counties were to be deprived of their most liberal element, and the addition of £10 occupiers was treated as a poison to which an antidote was required. The absence of any provision to reduce the franchise in boroughs, and the hard line of separation thus left between the middle orders and those who earn their livelihood by manual labour, would have tended to foster discontent, and make a war of classes. Three different courses had their advocates in the House of Commons—one party wished to divide against the bill on the second reading, another to destroy and transform the bill in committee, a third defended the principles of the bill; but this last party was almost entirely confined to those who hold office. It seemed to me that to move an amendment pointing out, on the second reading, the chief faults of the bill would be the most clear, manly, and direct course; it was approved by a majority of the whole House of Commons. Two-thirds of that House were agreed as to the requisites of a good bill of reform. Some points of detail, rather than of principle, remained to be adjusted between the most eminent of the independent men who spoke in the debate. It was evident that this agreement facilitated, and the public interest required, a settlement of this question in the present session. The suspension of the public and private business of Parliament, and the loss of many useful measures, are evils of no common magnitude. The state of affairs on the Continent makes it desirable that the voice of the British Parliament should be heard in defence at once of peace and freedom. A minister who advises a premature dissolution generally does so in pursuit of some policy he thinks beneficial to the country. But we are left in doubt as to the policy of the present Ministry. Whether they propose to revive their bill, to propose a new bill, or to leave the whole question in suspense, favouring agitation and postponing settlement, is matter of pure conjecture. For my own part, if again entrusted with the duty of representing you, it will be my endeavour to procure the immediate enactment of a sound, moderate, and constitutional measure. I will not recur to my votes on public and secret voting. That is a question which must be decided by the growth and maturity of public opinion. I am in favour of publicity, as in the end most conducive to freedom of thought and action; but I honour the aim and object of those who support the ballot, and I wish, like them, to check intimidation and corruption. In all that I have said I have refrained from attributing unworthy motives to the Ministry. The tendency of measures we can discern; the motives which inspired them we cannot. To accuse men in power of clinging to office, and men out of power of seeking place, is the common language of all times. It is difficult to be sagacious and clear-sighted; it is easy to be suspicious and uncharitable."

SIR JAMES GRAHAM AND CARLISLE.

Sir James Graham's address to the electors of Carlisle, contains these passages:—

"The Ministers of the Queen proposed a measure purporting to be an amendment of the laws which regulate the representation of the people. In this bill it was provided, that voters for cities having freeholds for counties within cities should no longer exercise the double franchise, but should be disqualified from voting in counties. In this bill, also, no provision was made for lowering the £10 occupation franchise on which the right of voting in cities now rests. Whereupon a resolution was proposed and carried, as an amendment to the second reading of this bill. The Ministers of the Crown regard this resolution as offensive; they complain also of adverse majorities, which have carried the abolition of church-rates against their will. They seek to brand the offenders, and to rid themselves of their presence in a new Parliament, by appealing to the country against these decisions of the majority of the present House of Commons. I am one of the offenders. I voted for the offensive resolution. I supported the abolition of church-rates. It is for you to say whether, by so doing, I have forfeited your confidence, and have misrepresented your wishes and opinions. The question really submitted to you is this—Reform or no Reform?—A Liberal policy, or tame submission to Lord Derby."

SIR EDWARD BULWER-LYTTON.

Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton's address simply informs us that he is suffering in health, and intended to resign his seat in Parliament; "feeling unequal to the fatigues of a canvass, and fearing that they would incapacitate me for the discharge of my duties to you if re-elected." But urged by many persons of various ranks and parties, and assured of indulgence if he is compelled to take whatever repose he can get during the recess, Sir Edward consents once more to place his services at the disposal of his constituents.

LORD DERBY AND HIS FOLLOWERS.—At a meeting of his supporters, held on Thursday week, the Earl of Derby is reported to have enforced on his party the necessity of moderation in their demands on the Government, illustrating this necessity by stating the large number of applications for peerages that he had received since his accession to power. "At this assembly the Noble Premier did not appear in one of his amiable or cheerful moods. He impressed on his auditors all the sacrifices he had made for the party, in such a manner as to create the impression that in his opinion he had received but an indifferent return in the qualified support given to his Reform Bill."

THE NEW PEERS AND BARONETS.—The dignity of Baron is conferred upon the undermentioned gentlemen: Colonel George Wyndham, by the title of Baron Leconfield, of Leconfield, in the East Riding of the county of York; William Tatton Egerton, Esq., by the title of Baron Egerton, of Tatton, in the County of Chester; Sir Charles Morgan Robinson Morgan, Bart., by the title of Baron Tredegar, of Tredegar, in the county of Monmouth. The new Baronets are: Mr. William Miles, M.P., Mr. John Neeld, M.P., Mr. Edward Grogan, M.P., Mr. John Henry Greville Smyth, Mr. George Studely, and Mr. Philip Pancefort Duncombe.

FOREIGN-OFFICE DESPATCHES.—"Who takes care of the despatches?" asks a correspondent of the "Morning Post." "I came over from Paris on Wednesday last. When arriving at Dover and leaving the boat, I saw on the bench near the exit a bag sealed with a large seal, evidently containing despatches. It was addressed to Lord Malmesbury. Not only could any one have taken the bag, but the bag was so evidently without an owner, that one of the porters asked me whether he should take the bag for me to the station, supposing it was mine."

LAMARTINE AND HIS POVERTY.—The city of Paris, in consideration of M. Lamartine's services to the country in 1848, has made him a present of a handsome house and extensive grounds in the Bois de Boulogne. M. Lamartine has lately refused to accept a residuary bequest made by an old maiden lady to whom he was a stranger. His friends say that he will not take advantage of the ill-considered bequest of an imaginative woman to deprive her relations of an inheritance upon which they had justly reckoned.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 95.

HOW THE HOUSE AND ITS OBJECTS ARE LIGHTED UP.

SINCE we wrote last, we have received the following note from a friend of ours, who was in the House when Mr. Gladstone spoke:—

"My dear Sir,—I was fortunate enough to obtain admission 'under the gallery' on the night when Gladstone re-opened the Reform debate, and I shall be obliged if you will tell me how that transcendently beautiful effort, produced by the sudden admission of light into the House, was achieved. I was eagerly listening to Mr. Gladstone, when I gradually became sensible that the House was getting disagreeably dark—and in a short time it became so dusky that I could hardly see the Speaker. I was annoyed at this, and wondered why the officials did not come in with lights; and I expected every moment to see a man go round and light the gas; but lo! suddenly, as if by magic, the light came, and turned the darkness into a brilliant illumination. The effect was wonderful; just before the Speaker's words, in shadow, and I could not see my nearest neighbour distinctly—but now all was light. The face of every member, turned towards the orator, seemed to emit rays of light; all the delicate tracery of the elaborately-carved fittings of the House stood out in relief. The Speaker's wig shone like a star, and the gilt handle on the table was for a time, until the eye got used to it, dazzling. I have often seen strange and beautiful effects, produced by the management of light, at our theatres—but I never saw anything like this. It was like a creation. Will you oblige me by describing this clever contrivance?"

We willingly comply with the request of our correspondent. We have often seen this effect, but never so effective as it was on that night. The House was uncommonly full—the admission of the light was delayed longer than usual—perhaps for fear of disturbing Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Speaker most likely thought that he should be able to delay giving the signal until the Right Honourable Gentleman sat down; but when he found that the darkness was becoming unpleasant, and that there were no signs of an end of Mr. Gladstone's speech, he pulled his bell, the gas was in a moment turned on, and the sudden flooding the House with light was very beautiful. The lighting of the House is managed in this way. In the House there are no gas burners, but the artificial ceiling is formed of ground glass, divided into squares, and over each square is a burner. When it is getting dusk the gas is lighted, but is kept so low that not a glimmer is seen from below. When Mr. Speaker wishes to have the House lighted up, he has only to pull a handle on the side of his chair, connected by a wire to a bell above the ceiling, and the man, who stands ready with the winch in his hand, turns on the light in a moment.

HOW THE SUBJECTS ARE NOT LIGHTED UP.

This is the method by which we light up the objects in the House; and for this clever contrivance we are indebted, we hear, to Mr. Goldsworthy Gurney; but neither that gentleman nor any other has, as yet, discovered any patent method for successfully throwing light upon the subjects which come before us. Not that we do not try, for our endeavours are protracted and assiduous; but hitherto, alas! with not much success. Every new Parliament brings us a host of pretenders, who promise us great things in this direction, but the lights of none of them penetrate very far, while some who are heralded by confident professions as great lights that will change the darkness into day, turn out to be mere rushlights, serving only to make the darkness visible. Take, for instance, that dark subject, our foreign affairs. Since we first visited the House, many years ago, attempts without number have been made to light up that dark and confused region. Palmerston once tried, or seemed to try, for four hours together, and so successfully (as it appeared then) that a great dinner was given to him at the Reform Club as a reward for his success; but it is now generally believed that the Noble Lord is a clever conjuror, and that the light which he seemed to flash into the depths of this vast subject was a mere illusion. Again, take the public accounts. How many attempts have been made to illuminate that dark, confused chaos, but in vain. Sometimes an adventurous member brandishes a torch, or a watchman turns on his bull's-eye, and we get a glimpse for a moment—but only for a moment, and then again all is dark. The only man that ever was at all successful in lighting up this doleful region was Joseph Hume; and he was only partially so. But what wearisome labour, and toil, and suffering did he undergo to achieve what he did! It is rumoured that there are people who could if they would light up this dark chamber—but they won't. They love darkness, it is said, better than light, as the mousing owl, and the stealthy cat, and other nightly prowlers, on two legs and four, do, and for the same reason. A society was formed not long ago to light up this place, but it did not last long. It just looked in—got a glimpse into the chaos of mad whirling figures, dancing like fire-flies in what seemed to be an impenetrable jungle of red tape, and retired baffled and disgraced. Mr. Bright and certain Friends, say that they could illuminate these dark places, if the House would but let them try. They have a patent plan, they allege, which has never been used yet. But their opponents declare that it is conflagration, and not mere illumination, that these men contemplate, and will not consent. And so the matter stands; but we should not be surprised if Mr. Bright and his friends should some day be "called in," though it certainly will not be yet.

DYING PARLIAMENT.

Only a short fortnight ago, what life and energy and passion there were in the House of Commons! but now it is in a state of atrophy evidently boding speedy death; but lately—

"It was full of joke and jest,
But now its merry quips are o'er."

Some hundred members remain lingering in and about the House; but life is fast waning, and every man looks sad, disconsolate, and downcast; and no wonder—for the future of most of them is uncertain, whilst many of them know that they are leaving scenes and parting with friends which they shall never see again. Two years ago, they came into Parliament on the flood-tide of Lord Palmerston's popularity, and now the ebbing waters will leave them mere wrecks upon the strand, shorn of all their bravery and honour.

THE LOBBY.

The scene in the lobby is once more changed. We have no sober men of business here now; nor snobbish private secretaries, waiting for their chiefs; nor turbaned Mussulmans from India; nor portly Parsees, with their curious pasteboard hats; nor moustached *secrétaires de légation*; nor Liverpool merchants on that everlasting question of rating the docks. All these are fled; and in their place we see sturdy-looking provincials, come to see what their member means to do, or to inform him to his infinite disgust that they have found a second candidate, when he, good easy soul! was hoping to get quietly back without a contest; or seedy-looking lawyers and election agents, who having little regular business, must make the most of these occasional opportunities; or dirty, greasy, purple-faced men-of-all-work, of that tribe which always turns up at a general election, and is never seen at other times. That queer-looking person there, for instance, whom you see lounging against the brass candelabra, with his hands in his pockets, is one of these. Where this man lives, and how he lives, no one knows; but when a metropolitan election is coming on, he is sure to be seen suddenly there. Report says, we know not with what truth, that once he was a respectable tradesman, and that drink has brought him thus low. Did you ever see such a miserable object? Look at his hat, all crushed in; shirt he has none, we take it; and for all his clothes the lowest Jew in Houndsditch would not give him a shilling. "What does he here?" Well, we cannot precisely say; but this we know—that, ragged and dirty and sordid as he looks, we have seen him in close confab with several honourable members, and we once saw him literally holding a cabinet minister by the button. We lately saw another character glance by. Oh, there he is, slinking amongst the crowd in the corner; that short man with the tawny beard. He never likes to be a very prominent object, but rather affects the shade. He, you see, is better dressed than Mr. Greasy against the candelabra, and he can afford to be, for large sums of money pass through his hands at such times as these, and no doubt a considerable per centage sticks by the way. Business he has none, excepting at elections; and there he is a professional briber. His name we know not. He goes by many names—has a name indeed for every place at which he is employed. He was the man that practised that clever

dodge in the north. There were four candidates in the field all of the same colour. It was agreed to have a preliminary ballot, and to carry this scheme out, a sealed envelope, containing four tickets, each having a candidate's name printed thereon, was sent to every voter. The tickets were delivered in the afternoon before the morning when the ballot was to take place; and at night, after dark, our cunning friend there, secretly bought up about a hundred of his opponents' tickets, and secured the preliminary choice for his employers.

POERIO.

But who are they that Mr. Kinnaird is introducing with such formal ceremony to Lord Stanley? Let us inquire. The short one is the noble Poerio, the illustrious exile, and his tall companion is the Duke de Caballino. All hail, noble men! the sight of you and the feeling that we are in your presence, after what we have just been contemplating, does us good. It is like meeting the breezes of heaven after a sojourn in a filthy fetid Neapolitan dungeon. Poerio and his companion went into the peers' seats, and staid there about an hour. They expected to hear Palmerston's speech on foreign affairs, but were disappointed, as it did not come off.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

After the Royal assent had been given by commission to the East India Loan Bill and several other bills,

The SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS said he would, before the end of the session, give explanations with regard to the foreign policy of the Government; and he hoped he would be able to show that the Ministers had done everything in their power to preserve the peace of Europe.

Some other business of a routine character was got through, and the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PHOENIX TRIALS.

VISCOUNT CASTLEROSSE asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether his attention had been called to the fact that at the late trial at Tralee of Daniel O'Sullivan, convicted of being a member of the Phoenix Society, the eleven Roman Catholic jurors (including a gentleman lately appointed a magistrate of the county) who were called and answered to their names, were directed to "stand by" by the Crown; and, if so, whether such a course was adopted with the approval of the Government.

Mr. VANCE observed that the Government adopted precisely the same course on Mr. O'Connell's trial.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the Government had given no instructions to exclude the Roman Catholics from the jury, and explained that the challenges were made entirely on personal grounds.

After some remarks from Mr. M'MAHON and other Irish members,

The SECRETARY for the HOME DEPARTMENT deprecated any further discussion until the House was in possession of fuller information as to the facts of the case.

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. BEAMISH asked the Secretary to the Treasury whether Sir S. Cunard, having offered, through a deputation who waited on the Admiralty and Treasury Departments on Monday last, to convey the mails weekly between an Irish port and America for the sum of £500 the voyage out and home, it was the intention of her Majesty's Government to persevere in completing a contract for £300 for this service (fortnightly) between Galway and America.

Sir S. NORTHGOTE explained that the offer of Sir S. Cunard was not to establish a special service between Cork and America, but to permit his vessels to touch at Cork on their way out and home. Under these circumstances, the Government intended to complete the contract for the fortnightly service between Galway and America, which presented greater advantages to the public. The alternate week would be offered to Sir S. Cunard, and if he refused, it would be put up to auction.

Mr. GLADSTONE suggested that the proposed contracts should be submitted to the judgment of an impartial tribunal, and that no engagement on the subject should be entered into without the authority of the House.

Lord DUNDELL advocated the claims of the Galway line.

Mr. MAGUIRE contended that Cork was the best packet station, and that the Government ought to accept Sir S. Cunard's offer.

After some further discussion,

Sir J. GRAHAM doubted whether a third fortnightly communication with America was worth the money it would cost, but if it were, it became a grave question whether the Government should, by a private arrangement and without the knowledge or sanction of the House, be allowed to bind the public to the extent of £70,000.

The discussion then dropped.

THE GOVERNMENT AND REFORM.

In reply to Mr. CAYLEY, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he never intended to make such a statement as that the Government would not, under any circumstances, bring forward a measure of Parliamentary Reform. They reserved to themselves the right of bringing forward a measure when they considered the interests of the country required it, and they had an opportunity of passing it into law; but they would not bind themselves specifically to introduce one at any particular time. He might say, however, that he did not mean to hold out any hope that they would propose another measure to amend the representation of the people as soon as the new Parliament met, in June or July.

THE PROROGATION.

Sir GEORGE GREY wished to learn the intentions of the Government as to the period of the dissolution, as there was a rumour in circulation that they did not mean to dissolve till some time after the prorogation.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER complained of being called upon to answer questions founded only on common rumour. He calculated that the business before the House would be concluded on Monday or Tuesday week (18th or 19th); but the dissolution might certainly take place towards the end of the month.

Lord PALMERSTON expressed his dissatisfaction at this statement.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL saw no reason why the dissolution should not take place immediately after the prorogation.

The matter then dropped.

The report of the committee of supply was brought up and agreed to.

Some other business having been disposed of, the House adjourned.

MONDAY, APRIL 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE BUSINESS OF THE COURT OF CHANCERY.

Lord REDESDALE moved that there be laid before the House a plan of the ground proposed to be appropriated by the Hon. Society of Lincoln's Inn to the courts and other buildings for the transaction of the business of the Court of Chancery, under the provisions of the Court of Chancery Accommodation Bill, and plans and elevations of the said courts and buildings. In supporting the motion, he considered it would be an improvement and a convenience if the new courts were erected at Westminster.

The motion was agreed to.

TICKETS-OF-LEAVE.

Lord DUNGANNON, in moving for a return of the number of convicts to whom tickets-of-leave have been granted during the years 1857 and 1858, specifying the number given each year, also the number who during that period have been remanded to prison in consequence of the commission of any subsequent offence, expressed his intention of bringing the matter before the House after the prorogation. The motion was agreed to.

THE IRISH MAILS.

Lord MONTEAGLE asked the First Lord of the Treasury under what authority it is proposed to give effect to the contract respecting the acceleration of the Irish mails now on the table of the House? He objected to the way in which contracts of this kind were entered into to the amount of £1,000,000 a year, without Parliament exercising any control over the matter, especially as the next year Parliament may be asked for a vote of that sum to carry out these contracts.

Lord DERRY denied that the Government had deviated from the course ordinarily pursued. The expenses were paid out of the funds of the Post-office for this purpose by the Postmaster-General, who was authorised to do so by Parliament.

The Duke of ANGLY considered, from his own experience, that the packet service of the Post-office was in an unsatisfactory state.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY repeated that a sum of £1,000,000 a year was withdrawn from the supervision of Parliament; and all contracts of this kind ought not to be binding on either Government or individuals without the previous approbation and sanction of Parliament.

After a few words from Lords CLANRICARDE, COLCHESTER, MONTEAGLE, and REDESDALE, the subject dropped.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Lord HARDWICKE informed the House that Lord MALMESBURY hoped to make a statement on the present condition of foreign affairs on Friday next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE STATE OF THE CONTINENT.

In reply to Lord Palmerston, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that on Friday he would make a statement regarding our foreign relations. The prorogation might take place on Tuesday (the 19th), but he declined to name a day for the dissolution, though urged to do so, insisting that no person in his position had been or ought to be called upon to fix a precise day.

The Local Government Supplemental Bill, and the Confirmation and Probate Act Amendment Bill, passed through committee.

The Pauper Maintenance Act Continuance Bill, and the Naval Medical Supplemental Fund Society Annuities, &c., Act Continuance Bill, were read a third time and passed.

The House went into committee on the Railway Ticket Transfer Bill, but, after some discussion, the Chairman was ordered to leave the chair.

After some further business, the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

In the House of Lords on Tuesday, the Waterman and Lighterman Bill, the Superannuation Bill, and the Public Offices Extension Bill, were read a second time on the motion of Lord DONOUGHMORE.

The Indemnity Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Municipal Elections Bill was read a second time.

Their Lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CAPTAIN CARNEGIE'S RETIREMENT.

On the order for the second reading of the Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill,

Sir B. HALL asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he had any objection to state the causes of the late changes in the board? and proceeded to set forth certain allegations as to the conduct of the First Lord towards some of the naval lords, as thus: that he had desired Sir B. Dundas to stand for a particular borough (he believed Dover), which Sir Richard declined to do, and upon being urged tendered his resignation; that Captain Carnegie was sent for, and urged to do the same thing, but upon going down to Dover, and hearing what his chances were, he declined to stand; and, after an interview with the First Lord, stated that he could not, consistently with his feelings, continue in his office, and resigned. Captain Carnegie distinctly informed him (Sir Benjamin Hall) that this was in consequence of a difference of opinion with the First Lord as to the selection of a place he hoped to represent. These two Naval Lords being disposed of, a difficulty occurred in filling up the vacancies; and Sir Benjamin mentioned the names of naval officers who, it is said, had been sent for, and who had declined to accept a seat at the Board of Admiralty upon the proposed condition. Finally it was stated that Sir H. Leeke, after finding his chance hopeless at Devonport (where he had attempted to bias the electors by promising them a share in the official patronage now monopolised by Portsmouth), had consented to become a candidate for Dover, and was in consequence nominated a Lord of the Admiralty. In urging his inquiry into the truth of these statements, Sir B. Hall observed that, if well founded, they showed that the whole service of the navy was thrown into confusion, on the possible eve of a war, because the junior members of the Admiralty board would not obey the behests of the First Lord, in travelling over the country to contest elections.

Sir J. PARKINGTON had no objection to answer the inquiry, and, indeed, was glad of the opportunity of doing so. It was, he observed, a matter of great convenience, both to the Legislature and the Government, that one or more of the "naval lords" of the Admiralty should have seats in the House, and when Captain Carnegie was originally appointed to the Board, there had been an understanding that on the first convenient opportunity he should endeavour to get himself elected. This opportunity had now occurred, but Captain Carnegie had refused to fulfil the condition, and instead tendered his resignation, which was of course accepted. Admiral Dundas, under a similar disinclination to stand an election contest, had also offered to resign; but from motives wholly unconnected with party politics, that gallant officer was persuaded to remain at the Board. The offer of resignation made by Admiral Martin was prompted entirely on personal grounds; it had nothing to do with elections, and had also been withdrawn. Respecting the new naval lord (Sir H. Leeke), the Right Hon. Baronet declared that he knew nothing of his recent exchange from Devonport to Dover; and generally repudiated the assertion that he had ever threatened members of the board with dismissal as the penalty of refusing to challenge an election contest.

Mr. OSBORNE observed that, after the revelations made by the First Lord as to the political jockeying going on at the Admiralty, it was impossible that Parliament could leave the Board as it was. Nobody could put confidence in such a Board of Admiralty.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER remarked that many inconveniences resulted from the circumstance that none of the naval Lords of the Admiralty held seats in the House. It was a difficulty that had been much felt by the Government during the past year; and they had taken measures to remedy it long before the dissolution of Parliament was contemplated. He could substantiate the statement of Sir John Parkington regarding Captain Carnegie.

Some brief remarks on the subject having been offered by Sir G. GREY, Sir C. NAPIER, Lord C. HAMILTON, Sir E. PERRY, and other members, the subject dropped; and the motion for the second reading of the Appropriation Bill was agreed to. The Exchequer Bill (£13,277,400) was read a second time.

THE BALLOT.

Mr. H. BERKELEY moved for leave to introduce a bill to cause the votes of the parliamentary electors of Great Britain and Ireland to be taken by way of ballot. Every legislative attempt to put down corruption and intimidation had utterly failed, and no real protection could be afforded to the electors except by the ballot, which they had long petitioned for as a favour, but which hereafter they might exact as a right.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. V. SHILLLEY.

Mr. S. ESTCOURT, the Home Secretary, declined to discuss the subject at length in the then state of the Houses of Parliament; and on the part of the Government, said he should meet the proposition by a direct negative.

Sir R. BETHELL supported the motion, and replied to objections offered to the Ballot. The argument of Lord J. Russell and Lord Palmerston, he observed, was that the elective franchise was a trust, and that those for whose benefit it was held had a right to know how the trust was performed. There was no greater source of error than arguing from a false or imperfect analogy. If the elector was a trustee, in the sense of a trust in law, for whom was he a trustee? He supposed it would be said, for the non-electors; then, according to the analogy, the right to the franchise vested in them, and not in the elector.

Lord J. RUSSELL said the argument he had always used was that publicity was the rule of this free Government. It was the presiding principle throughout the judicial, the administrative, and the political system of the country. He acknowledged, however, that he had modified his opinion upon this subject so far that he did not think secret voting would have the injurious consequences he had formerly supposed; and freedom depended upon a feeling of independence, and the form of secret voting in France had made the voters timid. He should vote against the motion.

Lord PALMERSTON observed that Sir R. Bethell had cautioned the House against the errors arising from the use of legal terms, and his speech furnished an illustration of the danger. Persons might be trustees for the benefit of the nation who did not come within the technicalities of the Court of Chancery. Mr. Berkeley proposed to make secret voting compulsory, and he agreed with Lord J. Russell that the people of England would not submit to such tyranny; they would rebel against such a law. What was to be the penalty for divulging the secret? Was it to be fine or imprisonment? It was trifling with Parliament and the country to propose such a law, which, whatever machinery might be employed, would encourage fraud, falsehood, and corruption. Publicity was an essential element of the British constitution; whatever public function was exercised by a man for the benefit of the nation should be exercised subject to responsibility. If the protection of secrecy was to be thrown around electors, upon what possible analogy could the same protection be refused to members of Parliament? The system would not work; and if enforced, it would be tyrannical, and inconsistent with the principles of the British Constitution.

Mr. A. MILLS having spoken against the motion, and Mr. CONINGHAM in its support,

Mr. BERKELEY replied. Upon a division, the motion was lost by three votes, there being 102 nays to 99 ayes.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The business of the House of Commons on Wednesday was of a very general character.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY gave notice that on the third reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill, he should ask the Secretary of the Treasury a question as to a vote of £2,000,000 which had been taken for the Crimean war, with regard to the extent to which the vote had been made use of, and the manner in which the money had been applied.

The Exchequer Bills Bill, Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, and some others, passed through committee.

Viscount MELBURN moved for a return of educational grants for Scotland.

Upon the motion of Mr. AYRTON, an address was agreed to for a return of the income for the year 1857 of all property situate within the metropolis, as defined by the Metropolis Local Management Act, held by or in trust for the Bishop of Winchester, and any canon, prebend, or other officer of St. Paul's and Westminster Cathedrals.

Some other business was transacted, and the House adjourned.

(The following appeared in a portion only of our Last Week's Impression.)

THURSDAY, APRIL 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

INDIAN FINANCE.

On the motion for the second reading of the Indian Loan Bill,

Lord DERRY said that the House would look on this bill as a grant on account which it was necessary to obtain before the dissolution of Parliament, but that a further sum of £5,000,000 would be required. In answer to various questions which had been put, he informed the House that a day of thanksgiving for our successes in India was about to be appointed, and that a vote of thanks was to be given to Lord Clyde and the officers and troops under his command. He then proceeded to detail the steps which had been taken to reduce the enormous military expenditure. The number of Europeans of all arms in India was 112,000, to which a native army of about 320,000, inclusive of police, was joined. The native army at the present moment exceeded by 50,000 men the native army which existed before the mutiny. Orders had been sent out to reduce as far as possible the native troops, and to prohibit new levies. Out of the eighty-five regiments of Queen's troops ten were to be sent home; but this could not be done at once, as it would be attended with great expense, and would derange the estimates by increasing the expenditure for troops in this country. He would not express an opinion on the number of European troops necessary for a peace establishment; but if, as had been proposed, 80,000 Europeans and a native force of 200,000 were to be kept up, it would require an expenditure of at least £15,000,000 a year—a sum which the revenue of India could not be expected to pay; and therefore a great reduction of those numbers would be necessary. The reductions which were about to be made would be a cessation of extensive field operations and extraordinary commands, a diminution of the native army and of the British troops in India. This would require great caution, and must not be done in too great haste, as it would be necessary for some time to keep a large force in India.

The Duke of ARGYLL wished to have the principle strongly and at once enunciated, that under no circumstances should the British Exchequer be made responsible for Indian debts. This he insisted upon as a measure of justice both to England and India; the creditors of the Government in Hindostan having, as he observed, lent their money exclusively upon the credit of the local government, obtained a correspondingly high rate of interest in consequence.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH entirely agreed with the Duke of Argyll on the question of guarantees, not so much as regarded England as for the injury it would inflict on India. In an exceptional case like this Loan Bill, however, it might be advisable to extend the protection of a guarantee. After describing the way in which much of the recent debt had been incurred, he felt convinced that the only means to arrive at a satisfactory result was to reduce the native army, and he suggested that 100,000 persons should be struck off the roll. The European force, however, ought to be double what it was before the mutiny, and with such an increase of its numbers it could easily hold the country. It would be a dangerous experiment to discharge these 100,000 men at once, as the chances are that they would one and all become Pindars, but their discharge should be spread over a period of four or five years. A revision of taxation, he hoped, would soon compel the wealthy native to pay those taxes from which he was now exempt, and which fell with all their weight on his poor brethren. The real difficulties of Indian finance were to be met not merely by lightening taxation, but by good government, in order to render the people content, and so to dispense with the presence of a large military force.

Lord ALBEMARLE quoted a mass of figures to prove that the energies of the people of India were crushed beneath the weight of taxation, paying, as they do, at the rate of 16s. or 18s. in the pound. He deprecated the levying of Customs' duties on those hardly-taxed people, and proposed instead an export duty on the staple commodities of India, as such taxes would be paid by the wealthy foreigner, and not by the rack-rented Hindoo.

After a short conversation between Lords DERRY, ELLENBOROUGH, DONOUGHMORE, and MONTEAGLE,

The bill was read a second time, was committed, was read a third time, and passed.

The Orders of the Day were then disposed of, and the House adjourned at half-past eight o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Lord PALMERSTON announced that he should on Friday evening call attention to the state of our foreign relations, and ask her Majesty's ministers to explain the precise position to be held by England as mediator or negotiator in the pending discussion at Paris, or in the future Congress to be held elsewhere, with respect to the affairs of Italy and Europe in general.

The Superannuation Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Combination of Workmen Bill was passed through committee; and several measures having been advanced on a stage, the House adjourned at half-past seven o'clock.

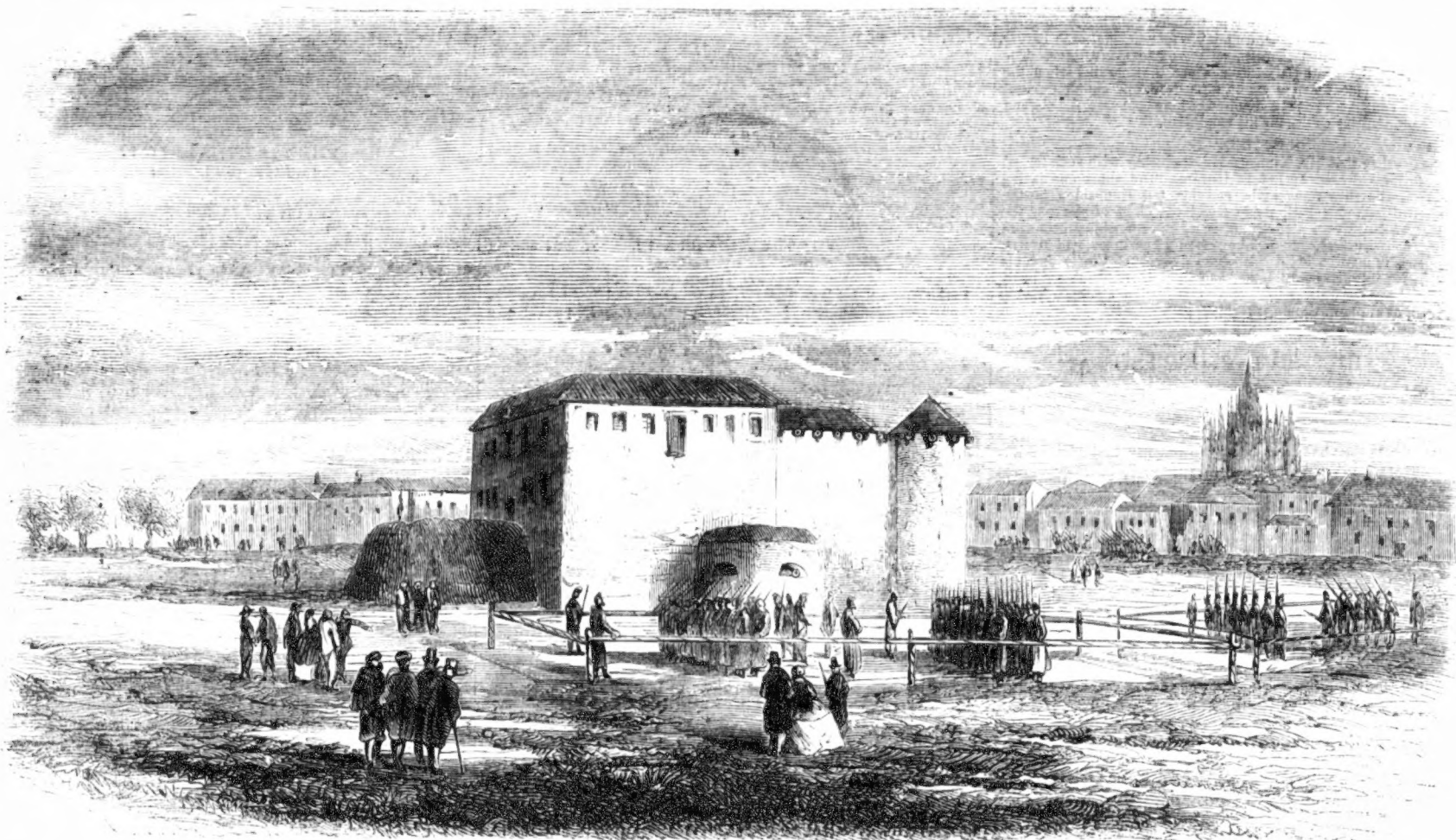
DRINKING FOUNTAINS FOR THE METROPOLIS.—A public meeting of noblemen and gentlemen was held in the large room at Willis's on Tuesday, for the purpose of forming an association to erect public drinking fountains throughout the metropolis upon the plans already adopted in Aberdeen, Liverpool, Oldham, and other provincial towns. The Earl of Carlisle took the chair, and there were also present on the platform the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Albemarle, Lord Radstock, Lord John Russell, the Right Hon. W. Cowper, M. P., Mr. S. Gurney, M. P., Mr. Melly, the Rev. Mr. Rogers, the Rev. A. W. Thorold, Dr. Letheby, and other gentlemen. A resolution constituting the society having been passed, another most important one was added. "That no fountain be erected, promoted, or maintained by the association which shall not be so constructed as to ensure by filters, or other suitable means, the perfect purity and coolness of the water, as far as practicable under existing circumstances."

MISS MARTINEAU AND MR. CHARLES DICKENS.—In a letter to the editor of the "Critic," Miss Martineau writes:—"I did not contribute to 'Household Words' from the first; I never was a 'principal contributor'; I never had the advantage of more than the slightest personal acquaintance with Mr. Dickens, who was never, therefore, my 'old friend'; I have never quarrelled with Mr. Dickens; I withdrew from 'Household Words' a year and a half before the disgraceful attack on the millowners appeared in it; and my withdrawal was for a reason which bore no relation to any views of Mr. Dickens's on economical or social subjects."

TALLEYRAND'S MEMOIRS.—We hear from Paris:—"It is a well-known fact that the memoirs of M. de Talleyrand, according to his disposition, are to appear only thirty years after his death, which will be in 1868. But the heirs have already begun negotiations with publishers, who, of course, have had a glance at these papers, allowing others to have a peep over their shoulders. It is known now that these curious memoirs contain a very secret history of the House of Austria, and throw lights on Maria Louisa which are in the highest degree interesting. It is said that the heirs have been offered large sums by publishers, but still larger sums by others who are not publishers, but who would be glad to buy and confiscate the history of the whole world. Yet the heirs have resisted the temptation, and will not deprive the spirit of the deceased of the pleasure of speaking the truth for once, at least, after his death. Who knows?"

A SCENE AT SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE.—A disgraceful scene occurred on Saturday night at Sadler's Wells Theatre. The theatre was let for the performance of English opera. On Saturday evening the opera of "Martha" was announced, and the house was well filled in every part. Two acts of the opera went off with great success. The curtain not rising again after the lapse of the usual time, some calls were made for the orchestra, who, after great delay, made their appearance, and played the overture to the third act; and the curtain not rising after another long delay the overture was repeated. Loud calls, hisses, and other noises, now arose from every part of the house, upon which the conductor, Mr. Tully, said it was no fault of his that the opera was not gone on with, for he, and the band and chorus, were prepared to do their duty. Then a Mr. Rosenthal came forward, and said that none of those whose names appeared on the bills had received any money for a fortnight; however, they would go on with the opera in front of the curtain. Mr. Rosenthal then, with some of the chorus, came in front of the curtain, but the noise behind was so great that his voice could not be heard. A mob of supernumeraries made their appearance, and a scene of great riot was the consequence. The audience showered hallicence upon the stage, and in the scramble to pick them up, the drop-scene was broken. This uproar continued for some time, and it was only with great difficulty that the house was eventually cleared.

THE "SICILE," speaking of the part to be taken by France at the proposed Congress, says:—"The Roman method is, we will admit, our ideal. Should our representatives present themselves before the Congress with a sword concealed in the folds of their torn they will carry the day; if they are only half convinced, they will assuredly be defeated."



THE PARADE-GROUND, CITADEL OF MILAN.

THE EMPRESS AND IMPERIAL PRINCE AT THE REVIEW IN THE CHAMP DE MARS.

A GREAT feature at the late review in Paris was the presence of the Imperial Prince, just over two years old, clad in the uniform of a corporal of the Genadiers of the Guard, of which regiment he is an *enfant*

de troupe. It appears that his infant Highness draws his pay, and we are not quite certain that he is not put through his regimental exercise by the sergeant-major. The troops were of course delighted to see the heir to the Imperial crown dressed in their cloth, and loudly cheered the young warrior as he passed along the lines, seated in the Empress's lap.

BARON CHARLES POERIO.

BARON POERIO—"the best and most virtuous of men," as Ferdinand of Naples was wont to describe him, while preparing for him a dungeon—was born at Naples in 1703. He is the son of the eminent patriot Poerio, whom, whilst a boy, he accompanied in



THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH, THE PRINCE IMPERIAL, AND THE PRINCESSES CLOTHILDE AND MATHILDE IN THE BALCONY OF THE ECOLE MILITAIRE.

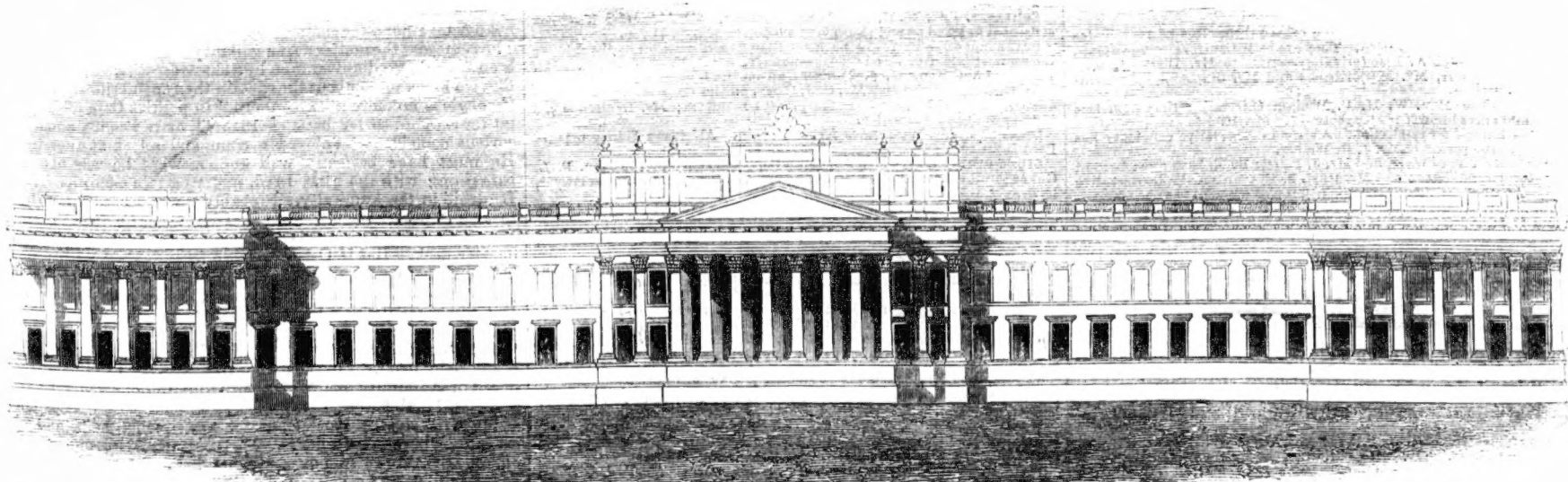


BARON POERIO.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY CALDESI AND MONTECCHI.)

political exile. The present victim of King Ferdinand's duplicity and vengeance was educated for the legal profession in a political sense. Poerio studied also the constitutional history of England, and made himself intimately acquainted with the struggles of England for that

monarchical freedom he so much desires to see bestowed on the people of Italy. He soon became an object of suspicion and hatred on the part of the King of Naples, and before 1848 was subject to government persecution. However, he became Minister of Public Instruction in Naples during the brief interval of feigned constitutionalism which that sovereign permitted in order to save his throne. It was the misfortune of Poerio

that he believed the public oaths and private professions of his king. After his resignation, and the fatal collision of May 15, which he did his best to prevent, he kept his place in the parliament of the kingdom until its dissolution, when, refusing to fly, he was arrested, brought before a packed court, and with forty others, among whom were many



PROPOSED ALTERATION OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—(CAPTAIN FOWERS, ARCHITECT.)

deputies, accused of conspiring to change the government of the Two Sicilies. Hired witnesses were brought against him, one of whom had four years before accused his own father of speaking against the Government. Having been condemned to twenty-four years' imprisonment, he was loaded with chains, and dragged from prison to prison, supporting his miseries with unsurpassed fortitude. Like scores of the most noble, cultivated, and virtuous men of his country, he was chained in an underground cell to one of the vilest criminals in the *Bagne*, and for only half an hour a week permitted to ascend and look out upon the face of nature.

It was probably owing to a fit of compunction, that Ferdinand, as he lay on a bed of sickness, ordered the release of this noble victim of his tyranny, with others who esteemed it honourable to suffer in such good company; though it may be, that the remonstrances of Great Britain hastened his deliverance. We have seen the welcome that England has given to the illustrious exile and his companions, and we would fain hope that the sympathy now shown them may lessen in some degree the misery of expatriation.

PROPOSED ALTERATION OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

THE whole of the building which is at present divided between the Royal Academy and the perennial exhibition of the National Gallery of pictures by old masters, will at no distant date be at the disposal of the last-named institution. A project has emanated from the Department of Science and Art, showing how, with this large acquisition of space, the edifice in Trafalgar Square might, with the moderate outlay of £34,000, be made to hold three times as large a collection as that now lodged in the western part of the building.

In the first place, it is proposed to unite the two sets of picture galleries, at present separated by a space of 130 feet, forming a central hall, which is big without grandeur, and useless without ornament. Few persons will require telling that a top-light is desirable for paintings. Now, this great central space, affording with its hall and passages an area of 8,000 square feet, out of the entire 22,000 on which the gallery stands, happens to be the best piece of top-lighted space in the building. To understand how this valuable space may be rescued from barren ugliness, it will be necessary briefly to consider the general plan.

The floor of the galleries is 23½ feet above the foot-pavement outside. This height is attained by a flight of steps under the portico, and a staircase on either side of the present hall. But if, by removing the exterior flight of steps, an entrance be made three inches only above the pavement, a gallery might be raised which should connect the galleries hitherto kept apart for different purposes, and there would still be height enough for a new hall below. A well-lighted vestibule can be formed by replacing with a light glass and iron ceiling the stone-flagged floor of the portico. It is further proposed to carry back the hall into what is now the sculpture-room of the Royal Academy, from the enlarged skylight of which, as well as from a series of windows in front, an ample supply of light would be gained. The staircases which lead from the ungainly hall to either set of galleries above, are enclosed between walls, and are utterly deficient of architectural dignity. In place of these, but not in the same disadvantageous position, it is proposed to give four staircases, each eight feet wide, at the four several corners of the hall.

The new and excellently-lighted apartment which would surmount the entrance-hall ought, it is suggested, to be appropriated to the purpose of a *salon carré*. The *salon carré* which would be bestowed on the National Gallery would be of nobler proportions than that of the Louvre, and would in other respects have a superiority over the Parisian chamber. A deep recess would be formed on each side of the new apartment, leading each way to an uninterrupted series of rooms, the widened doorways of which might easily be brought upon one central line, thus throwing open a magnificent vista of 450 feet, or the entire length of the building.

But such addition as we have described is not all that the scheme proposes. There are lower rooms, which, from the unfavourable circumstance of their being reached from the central hall by dark, descending stairs, have fallen into public discredit, as being little better than cellars. In reality they are good rooms enough, and, by the formation of the new entrance, would be above instead of below the flooring of the hall; and the impression derived from the new mode of entering them would be consequently far more agreeable.

So much for the interior alterations. The proposed change in the exterior consists partly in the removal of the steps already mentioned, and partly in a substitution of an attic storey for the meagre and unmeaning dome, and its flanking pair of pepper-castors. The elevation of the entire *façade* is before us; and though there is a look of bareness and impoverished decoration in the long horizontal lines, we must, on the whole, concede merit to the design, if only for getting rid of the paltry incumbrances which at present break a part of those lines, but add no grace, and give no important relief. The other improvements of the exterior would consist in carrying forward the depressed portion of the wings to a level with their small projecting front.

THE ELECTORATE CONTEST.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

[We omit from the following list—in continuation of that published last week—those seats for which there is at present no prospect of a contest.]

ASHBURN.—Mr. Moffatt, Conservative, is to be opposed by Mr. John Harvey Astell.

AYLESBURY.—Sir Richard Bethell retires from the representation of this composite borough in favour of Mr. Wentworth, who recently married a daughter of Lord Clanricarde.

BARNBY.—Sir C. Douglas, Liberal, and Mr. Alderman Allen, of London, Conservative, are in opposition to Mr. Samuelson.

BATH.—Sir A. Elton has retired. An active and energetic canvass is being made by the friends of Messrs. Tite and Phinn, and also on behalf of Mr. A. E. Way, son of the newly-created baronet, Sir J. H. Greville Smyth.

BEKESFORD.—Major Stuart and Captain Polhill Turner, Conservatives, oppose Messrs. Whitbread and Barnard, the Liberal members.

BEKESFORDSHIRE.—Lieutenant-Colonel Higgin is brought forward by the Liberals.

BERKSHIRE.—Mr. Vansittart has already retired from the contest, and there is no present probability of an opposition to the return of Messrs. Bouvier, Walter, and Vernon.

BERWICK.—Two new candidates have offered themselves as representatives for this ancient border town. They are both Conservatives—Captain Gordon and Mr. Ralph A. Erle (private secretary to Mr. Disraeli). The two Liberal members, Mr. Marjoribanks and Mr. Stapleton, offer themselves for re-election.

BEVERLEY.—The Hon. W. H. F. Denison (Liberal) retires from this borough, and offers himself for Scarborough. Mr. H. Edwards (Conservative), offers himself for re-election. A second Conservative candidate has been found in the person of Mr. J. R. Walker.

BODMIN.—Mr. James Wyld, and Mr. J. Palmer Budd, have come forward as the Liberal candidates; and Mr. R. H. S. Vyvyan on the Conservative interest. Another candidate, Dr. Michell, is also expected to come forward.

BOLTON.—Mr. Crook has given offence by voting for the Government bill; and it is expected that Mr. T. Barnes will be brought out against him. Captain Gray, a Conservative, is in the field.

BOSTON.—Mr. Adams retires; Mr. Staniland, Mr. J. H. Holloway, and Mr. Herbert Ingram contend for the two seats.

BRADFORD.—Mr. Titus Salt comes forward; General Thompson retires.

BRIDGWATER.—Mr. Padwick and Mr. Westrop hotly contest this borough, (in the Conservative interest), against the present members, who are Liberals.

BURY ST. EDMUND'S.—A new candidate has appeared for this borough, in the person of Sir R. Jacob Buxton, of Shadwell Court, Conservative.

CHATHAM.—Mr. Otway, late M.P. for Salford, is canvassing against Sir Frederick Smith.

CHILTERNHAM.—Mr. Schreiber (Conservative) opposes Mr. Craven Berkeley.

CIRENCESTER.—Mr. Millings retires; and Mr. Follett, a Conservative, has issued an address. Mr. Allen Bathurst asks for re-election.

COLCHESTER.—Mr. Miller and Mr. Rebou stand again. Mr. Papillon, a Conservative, is to oppose Mr. Rebou.

CRICKLADE.—Lord Ashley appears in the field as a candidate in the Liberal interest, and against Mr. Goddard.

DERBY.—Mr. Bass and Mr. Beale offer themselves. Their opponent is Mr. W. M. James, barrister. A Conservative is spoken of.

DURHAM (SOUTH).—Mr. Farrer will contest this division of the county of Durham in the Conservative interest.

DORSETSHIRE.—Mr. Digby (Liberal), Mr. Floyer (Conservative), are the new candidates.

ESSEX (NORTH).—Colonel Ruggles Pouse opposes Mr. Beresford.

ESSEX (SOUTH).—Mr. Bramston comes forward, like Mr. Watlington, as a general supporter of Lord Derby.

EVESHAM.—Colonel Addison will contest the borough with the sitting member, Sir Henry Willoughby.

FINSBURY.—Sir S. Morton Peto is in the field.

GLOUCESTER.—Sir Robert Carden has issued an address.

GREENWICH.—Sir William Codrington retires. Alderman Salomons, the other sitting member, Mr. Angerstein, Mr. J. H. Whalley, and a Conservative admiral, will probably be the candidates. A requisition to Mr. M. Chambers is being signed.

GUILDFORD.—Mr. Bovill, Conservative, and Mr. Onslow, Liberal, the sitting members, will have to fight for their places against Mr. J. Evelyn, Conservative, and Mr. Campbell, Liberal.

HALIFAX.—Sir Charles Wood is again a candidate. Mr. Crossley may be promoted to the West Riding; his place is contended for by Mr. Waterhouse, Mr. Remington Mills, and Mr. Stansfield.

HARWICH.—Mr. R. J. Bageshaw, the sitting Liberal member, has expressed his determination to retire, and four candidates are now in the field—the Hon. Mr. Campbell and Mr. J. C. Marshman, Liberals; and Captain Jervis and Mr. Richard Thomas Rowley.

HELSTON.—Mr. Trueman, Liberal, is to be opposed by Mr. J. Jope Rogers, Conservative, whose extensive influence in the neighbourhood will render the contest a very sharp one.

HEREFORDSHIRE.—Mr. King King and Lord William Graham, Derbyites, are in the field. It is thought the Liberal member, Sir G. Cotterell, will retire.

HERTFORD.—Mr. Cowper, one of the sitting members, has issued an address. The other, Sir M. Farquhar, has been asked to stand for the county. Mr. Dimsdale and Mr. Thomas Chambers have been mentioned as probable candidates.

HERTFORDSHIRE.—Sir Henry Meux retires. Four candidates are in the field. Mr. Puller, and Mr. Grosvenor, son of Lord Ebury, Liberals; Sir Edward Lytton, and Mr. Abel Smith, junior, Conservatives.

HONTOB.—Mr. Baillie Cochrane asks to be elected in the interest of Lord Derby.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.—Mr. Fellowes and Mr. Montagu, Conservatives, and Mr. Heathcote, Liberal, are candidates. Mr. Rust retires.

IPSWICH.—Mr. Cobbold and Mr. Hugh Adair come forward for re-election.

IPSWICH.—Mr. John King, Radical, and Mr. Selwin, Conservative, oppose them.

KENT.—In the East no opposition is looked for. In the West, Lord Helmsdale and Sir E. Filmer try their chance against Mr. Martin and Mr. Whatham, the sitting members.

KIDDERMINSTER.—Mr. Robert Lowe retires. Mr. Huddleston, Conservative, offers himself.

LAMBETH.—Mr. Williams retires. Mr. Frederick Doulton, Liberal, is a candidate.

LANCASHIRE (NORTH).—The Conservatives have launched the Hon. Alfred Egerton; and Colonel Blackburne is talked of.

LANCASHIRE (SOUTH).—Mr. Heywood and the Hon. Algernon Egerton are the candidates for the seat which will be resigned by Mr. W. Brown.

LANCASTER.—Four candidates are in the field—viz., Mr. W. A. F. Saunders, Mr. W. J. Garnett, Mr. E. M. Fenwick, and Mr. L. Gregson, the first-mentioned gentlemen professing Conservative principles, and the three last-named candidates offering themselves as Liberals.

LEEDS.—The Liberals have put forward Mr. W. E. Forster and Mr. Edward Baines.

LINCOLN.—Major Sibthorp and Mr. Henegge are again candidates. Mr. Hinde Palmer, Liberal, is the opposing candidate.

LINCOLNSHIRE (SOUTH).—Mr. Hussey Packe offers himself. The sitting members are Sir John Trollope and Mr. Willson.

LISKEARD.—It is supposed that Mr. Lopez will contest the borough with Mr. R. Grey.

LYME REGIS.—Mr. J. W. Treeby offers himself, in the interest of the present Government.

MALDEN.—Mr. Bramely-Moore, Conservative, and Mr. Western, Liberal, are to have Mr. Peacock for an opponent.

MAIDSTONE.—Mr. Beresford Hope quits Maidstone and pays court to the University of Cambridge. Major Scott, his colleague, will come forward again. Mr. Egerton Harcourt, son of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, offers himself in the Conservative interest, and Mr. Lea as a Liberal.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Mr. Hayman, extensively connected with the coal trade of the South, will contest this borough in the Conservative interest.

NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT.—It is said that two Conservatives will be brought forward here to oppose Mr. Buxton and Captain Mangles.

NEW SHOREHAM.—Lord A. Lennox has retired; and Mr. Stephen Cave, of Wilton Place, London, a Conservative and a commercial man, has issued an address to the electors.

NORFOLK (WEST).—The Conservatives will put forward Mr. Bagge of Stradsett, to fight the county in conjunction with Mr. Bentinck. Their object is tooust the sitting Liberal, Mr. Gurdon.

NORTHALLERTON.—Mr. Charles H. Mills (of the banking firm of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, and Co.) is the candidate in the Conservative interest. Mr. W. B. Wrightson (Liberal) offers himself for re-election.

NORTHAMPTON.—Mr. J. T. Mackenzie, a supporter of Lord Derby, is a candidate.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (NORTH).—Mr. Fitzpatrick Vernon, son of the Right Hon. Vernon Smith, has issued his address as a Liberal candidate, in opposition to Lord Burleigh and Mr. G. W. Hunt.

OXFORDSHIRE.—Should Colonel North retire, the Conservatives will bring up Mr. Hugh Hammersley.

PENRYN AND FALMOUTH.—The sitting members, Messrs. Baring and Gurney, are to be opposed by Mr. Gwyn and Mr. J. F. L. Forster, Conservatives.

PETERBOROUGH.—Mr. Wilde, Q.C., (Liberal), is the candidate here. The Hon. G. Fitzwilliam has retired, and supports Mr. Wilde. Another candidate, in the person of Mr. William Wells, who formerly sat in Parliament, has entered the field as an "independent" Liberal.

PONTEFRAC.—Mr. Overend, Q.C., again contests this borough, Conservative.

PLYMOUTH.—It is supposed that the sitting members, Mr. Collier and Mr. White, will be opposed by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Moore, shipowners.

ROCHESTER.—The Conservatives have brought forward Mr. Mitchell and Mr. G. H. Money, in opposition to the present members, Mr. P. Wykeham Martin and Mr. Sergeant Kingleake.

REIGATE.—Mr. Layard has declined to stand for this borough.

SALISBURY.—General Buckley and Mr. Marsh ask re-election. Mr. John Chapman is a candidate.

SANDWICH.—Sir J. Fergusson and Mr. W. Lewis, both supporters of Lord Derby, have issued addresses.

SHREWSBURY.—Mr. Tomline and Mr. Slaney, present members, are to be opposed by Major Phibbs.

SHROPSHIRE.—Mr. Dod retires from the Northern division, and there will be a great fight for his seat. Two Conservatives, Mr. Ormsby Gore and Sir B. Leighton, are new candidates. Mr. Rowland Clegg Hill comes forward again.

SOMERSET.—Mr. W. H. Gore Langton retires. Sir Alexander Hood has consented to stand as an independent supporter of Lord Derby.

SCARBOROUGH.—There are no fewer than five candidates in the field for the representation of this borough—namely, Sir J. V. B. Johnstone, Mr. Dent, and the Hon. W. F. Denison, all on the Liberal interest; and the Hon. Cecil Duncombe and Mr. G. J. Caley, on the Conservative side. Sir J. Johnstone and Mr. Dent are the present members; Mr. Denison is one of the members for Beverley.

STAFFORD.—Mr. Wise comes forward again. Alderman Sidney opposes Lord Ingestre.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT.—Mr. Alderman Copeland retires. The Hon. F. L. Gower (brother of the Earl of Grenville) and Mr. Pope, a Manchester lawyer, have appeared.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Mr. Willcox and Mr. Weguelin are to be opposed by two Tories, Captain Chamberlayne and Mr. Thomas Fleming.

TWICKENHAM.—Mr. Lygon and Mr. Martin appeal again for re-election. Mr. Cox, Liberal Conservative, is in the field.

TIVERTON.—The retirement of Mr. Heathcote is announced. The Hon. George Denham has issued an address; and Mr. Kennedy, a Conservative, is talked of.

TAUNTON.—Mr. Brydges Williams, the present member, has retired. There are three candidates in the field, Mr. Augustus Smith and Captain Vivian, the present member for Bodmin, both Liberals, and Mr. M. Smith, Q.C., (of the Western Circuit), who describes himself as a Liberal Conservative.

TYNEMOUTH.—Mr. Hugh Taylor opposes Mr. W. S. Lindsay.

WAKEFIELD.—Mr. Charlesworth's seat is to be contested by Mr. Leanam, banker, a Liberal.

WALLINGFORD.—Mr. Malins, Q.C., offers himself for re-election. Mr. Charles Brodie Locock—a nephew of Dr. Locock—has appeared before the constituency on Liberal principles.

WALSALL.—Mr. Henry Marshall, of Brighton, opposes Mr. Foster.

WYOMOUTH.—Colonel Freeston and Mr. Campbell are opposed by Lord Grey de Wilton and Mr. G. R. Brookes, an eminent shipowner; both candidates are Conservatives.

WILTSHIRE.—Mr. Wyndham retires. Lord Henry Thynne is a candidate.

WINCHESTER.—Sir J. B. East, Tory, and Mr. J. B. Carter, Liberal, both solicit re-election as representatives for this city. Two other candidates have issued addresses: Mr. George Shaw Lefevre, a nephew of Viscount Eversley, in the Liberal interest; and Mr. Thomas Fleming, in the Conservative interest.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Mr. Thorneley has resigned his seat. Sir Richard Bethell will probably be returned to it, unopposed.

YORKSHIRE (WEST RIDING).—The Liberals have determined to bring forward Sir J. W. Ramsden, one of the present members for the Riding, and Mr. F. Crossley, one of the present members for Halifax.

SCOTLAND.

DUMFRIES.—Mr. Bontine, Liberal, has issued an address.

FIFE (COUNTY).—Mr. Fergus retires. Mr. Wemyss, Liberal, and Lord Loughborough, Conservative, will contest the county.

EDINBURGH.—Mr. Cowan retires. Mr. Moncrieff will stand with Mr. Black.

GLASGOW.—Mr. Walter Buchanan retires. Mr. Dalglish has issued his address.

INVERNESS.—Mr. Campbell of Monzie is in the field.

LEITH.—Mr. Moncrieff retires. Mr. Miller and Mr. Wingate Henderson have issued addresses.

LINLITHGOW (COUNTY OF).—As the Lord-Advocate, Mr. Charles Balguy, who was elected for this county only two months ago, is to be elevated to the Scottish bench, to fill the vacancy caused by Lord Murray's death, the field is left clear in this county. Captain Walter Hamilton has been spoken of as his probable successor.

ROXBURGHSHIRE.—Mr. Elliot retires.

STIRLING.—Sir James Anderson retires. Mr. James Caird is opposed by Mr. Sinclair Ayrton.

WICK BOROUGHS.—Mr. Laing is a candidate for the representation of the Wick Burehs, and Lord John Hay is not to stand again. It is expected that Mr. Laing will not be opposed.

IRELAND.

ANTRIM (COUNTY).—Mr. George Macartney resigns, and the candidates will be Colonel Pakenham, one of the sitting members, and the Hon. Major-General Frederick Upton, late of the Coldstream Guards. Both gentlemen are Conservatives.

ARMAGH.—Mr. Bond, who has the support of the Lord Primate, comes forward against Mr. Miller.

BANDON.—Colonel Bernard has an opponent in Mr. Shaw (Liberal).

CARLOW.—Mr. Alexander, the present Conservative member, will be opposed by Mr. Gridley, an Englishman and a Liberal.

CLARE.—Colonel Luke White has issued an address. Lord F. Conyngham retires.

CORK (CITY).—Mr. Bancroft Carroll, a Liberal Conservative, contests this city with Colonel Wood, Conservative.

CORK (COUNTY).—Mr. Vincent Scully hopes to displace either Mr. McCarthy or Mr. Sergeant Denay.

DERRY (COUNTY).—Mr. Clerk retires.

DROGHEDA.—Mr. James McCann has sent in his resignation. Sir William Somerville will be invited to contest the borough against a Conservative.

KILDARE.—Mr. Henley has resigned. Sir William Host appears on the Liberal side.

KILKENNY (COUNTY).—Mr. Sergeant Shee, Mr. S. H. Moore, and Mr. J. Greene are in the field.

KILKENNY (CITY).—Mr. Nicholas Loughnan contests this city.

KISSALE.—Mr. Heard has resigned. Mr. Jameson, a solicitor, has come forward. Captain Carnegie, late one of the Lords of the Admiralty, is talked of.

SLIGO.—Mr. C. Kelly, a Dublin barrister, is a candidate for this borough.

WATERFORD (CITY).—Sir Winstone Barron appears against Mr. Harsard.

WEXFORD.—Colonel Hutton retires from this borough. Sir Fred. Hughes and Mr. Redmond (Liberals), with the sitting member, Mr. Devereux, remain to fight it out.

YONGHAL.—Mr. Butt is opposed by Colonel Roche, in the Liberal interest.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1859.

RECENT NAVAL REVELATIONS.

EVERYTHING relating to the navy is of more than usual interest just now. If the peace of Europe should be disturbed, nothing but a large force afloat would satisfy the national anxiety, to say nothing of the national pride. If the war became general we might—such is the changed state of things—have struggles of the most vital character to go through. So we make no apology for dealing with the questions opened by the personal debate of Tuesday last.

As far as the dispute between Sir John Pakington and Captain Carnegie goes, the public is likely to be but little interested in it. The captain made a personal arrangement, which he broke through, with the first Lord, and of course they could not act together after such an event. We might join with those who represent the matter as if a gallant inexperienced seaman had been placed at a disadvantage by a shrewd politician, were it not that we knew more about the captain than such critics. Captain Carnegie is no more a "greenhorn" in politics than afloat. He sat for Stafford so far back as 1843-44, as a Peelite, and (by a curious coincidence) enjoyed a command afloat at that time! He must have perfectly well known what he was about, in bargaining with the First Lord, under certain conditions, for a Lordship in the Admiralty. Probably it was a hard case to have to risk "punishment" from Bernal Osborne in contesting Dover, since the hustings is not quite so despotic a place as the quarter-deck. But if Osborne is so formidable a satirist, (and indeed he has a neat way of applying Sheridan's jokes to modern positions, and disconcerting the present feeble breed of debaters) that was a risk which Captain Carnegie deliberately incurred in accepting his late appointment.

This personal question, we say, is of the smallest possible importance by itself. But how does the revelation which it produced of Admiralty affairs generally illumine our general naval prospects? Most dismally, we fear. It shows us a First Lord at his wits' end in Parliament for professional help, and not knowing where to look for it. He contracts with one gallant officer, who throws him over—tries others who won't act—and has to fall back on a veteran dragged out of retirement for the purpose. In the course of the movement, the dockyard towns are discovered full of greedy activity, anxiously trying to make

something out of the situation—and the lowest considerations of party mix themselves up with the question, whether the country shall have adequate naval capacity in its employ in the House of Commons?

This is not an affair of the conduct of one particular minister, for the difficulty at the bottom of it is common to all. Under our parliamentary system, every department of the public service must be adequately represented in that House to which the whole is responsible. The political necessities of the system further bring it about that the appointment of First Lord should be held by a politician—that is to say, virtually, by a politician. Now, the difficulty under which a civilian must labour when brought face to face in technical matters with those professional men, some of whom are always in the Commons, is obvious. No genius, no industry, can quite put a man above such considerations; and we are by no means clear that to make the First Lord's appointment a naval one, would solve the difficulty, since a mere seaman might be as unfit for the civil part as a civilian for the nautical part of the duty. Were we to enforce such a regulation, the navy would soon grumble at finding that the political element in its First Lord prevailed over the professional element, and a deeper jealousy would be felt of a man of the cloth than is now felt of ordinary ministers. These considerations do not seem to have occurred to many theorists on the subject, but are by no means, we believe, unfelt among practical men themselves, and contribute to the difficulty of all Admiralty reform.

If everything points to this same difficulty, so everything points also to the necessity of its being encountered. Sir John Pakington may succeed in getting naval help in Parliament, or his next successor (whoever he may be) may attain the same help more easily; but what we want to point out, is the way in which naval difficulties thicken upon us. Here, while getting a glimpse of the parliamentary or constitutional side of admiralty troubles, we are reminded how deeply wrong we must have been somehow going for years, by the absolute state of the navy itself. The Carnegie debate has not been the only one lately on naval subjects. Some time before it, Lord Clarence Paget (a professional member) showed the House that the navy estimates had been systematically made unintelligible, or at least only partially intelligible, for many years. In fact, we never know anything of the navy till we get into danger, and then we find out that it has been going all wrong. We awaken to a sudden interest in our fleets, to find that they cannot get manned, and that the French have been getting ahead of us in the construction of powerful vessels. We are then told that nobody is to blame, and are treated to panegyrics on the successive administrations which have bamboozled and enabled us. Really it is time that something was done to amend all this. The alternative we shrink from putting into the language which was the native language of Collingwood and Nelson.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HIS MAJESTY has ordered that on Sunday the 1st of May thanksgiving shall be made in all the churches in the kingdom, for the suppression of the mutiny in India, and "for the blessings of tranquility, order, and peace restored to her Majesty's subjects in the East."

THE JUVENILE FANCY DRESS BALL, held at the Palace last week in honour of the birthday of Prince Leopold, was a great event. The costumes were in the most charming taste, and of great variety. There were little girls and little ladies à la Watteau, costumes of the time of Charles II., George II., and even of the Plantagenets; but the Stuart and the early Georgian were the favourite periods, and powder was plentiful.

THE PRINCESS ALICE will be confirmed during the ensuing Passion Week, at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. The Archbishop of Canterbury will officiate.

THE PRINCE OF WALES attended assemblies given by the Austrian, and subsequently by the French Ambassadors, at Rome, lately. His Royal Highness continues to make excursions to all remarkable places in the neighbourhood of the Eternal City.

SIR JOHN LAWRENCE has arrived in London from Calcutta.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND received at luncheon, on Monday, Baron Poerio and a party of the leading Neapolitan exiles who have sought refuge in this country. Earl Granville entertained the Baron and Signor Pica at dinner on Sunday.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON held a confirmation on Friday (the 8th) at the district church, Christ Church, St. George-in-the-East. Amongst the candidates was his Majesty's people, the ex-King of Bonny River territory.

SEVERAL OF THE "CHURCHES" in NEW YORK are engaged in making arrangements for a Christian Civilisation Mission to Japan. The matter has been undertaken by the foreign board of the Reformed Dutch Church.

MR. BONAMY DOBREE has been elected Governor of the Bank of England, and Mr. Alfred Latham, of the firm of Arbuthnot, Latham, and Co., Deputy-Governor.

MR. ROBERT SPENCER GREGG, commoner of St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, and of Canterbury, was seized from a "whiff" on the river Cherwell, and drowned, a few days ago.

AT VALENCIA, in Spain, a new religious sect has been formed, with a pope and cardinals of its own. The journals say that the persons composing it are mad.

THE NEWLY-INSTITUTED EXAMINERSHIP in English literature and history in the University of London has been filled up by the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Angus, of the College, Regent's Park.

THE BISHOP OF BANGOR was suddenly seized with paralysis last week, and was found by his niece, Miss Bethel, on the floor of the study in a perfectly helpless state; his condition is still very alarming.

THE TOWER OF OLD BARFORD CHURCH (Notts) fell in last week, causing damage to the extent of about £2,000. The church is a very old one, and was in course of being restored. The damage sustained is principally confined to the new portion of the edifice.

MR. WILLIAM CHAMBERS (of "Chambers' Journal," &c.), has given to the inhabitants of Peebles, his native place, the property of an institution, to be called "The Chambers Institution." The buildings, including a public assembly hall, a museum and gallery of art, reading-room, and library, will, it is said, cost about £20,000.

THE GREENWICH ESTATE, at Vere, (Jamaica) the property of the Hon. Edward Thompson, has been destroyed by fire, with all the "cane pieces" except one, and 200 hogsheads of sugar.

MR. BAILLIE, the Lord-Advocate, will fill the vacant seat on the judicial bench in Scotland, and will be succeeded as Lord-Advocate by the present Solicitor-General for Scotland, Mr. David Muir.

THE EARL OF DEVON, Sir John Aubrey, and Richard Jobb, Esq., formerly chairman of the Sewers Board, are named commissioners to inquire into the administration of justice in the Channel Islands.

THE LATE WINTER in RUSSIA has been the mildest on record. The gulfs of Finland and Bothnia have hardly been frozen over, and in February a ship from Copenhagen arrived at Helsingfors with a cargo. The customary sledge-drives on the Neva have been almost entirely suspended.

MR. WRIGHT, the comedian, has been compelled to take another respite from his professional duties in consequence of the precarious state of his health.

WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF M. DE TOCQUEVILLE, whose great work on America, and other literary labours, replete with sound political philosophy, have won for their author world-wide fame.

MR. DICKENS has received two or three substantial offers from American publishers—one securing to him for his new tale as large a sum as he could have expected under the working of an international copyright.

ABOUT 200 WORKMEN are now employed on board the Great Eastern; and as all necessary funds are available, it is confidently anticipated that she will be completed by August next.

A PUBLIC EXHIBITION of the works of Ary Scheffer is announced to take place at the hotel of the Marquis of Hertford, on the Boulevard des Italiens, Paris.

MR. AND MRS. ALFRED WIGAN have just concluded a successful engagement at the new Adelphi Theatre, and will commence their labours at the same establishment in a fortnight's time, from which period they will continue their performances until the first week in July.

THE SUCCESS OF MR. PHIPPS, in his Shakespearian characters, at Berlin, has been immense; the German audiences were quite taken by surprise, and the Friedrich-Wilhelm Theatre has been nightly filled with the élite of Berlin society, whether by birth or attainment.

THE DEATH OF LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR JOSEPH THACKWELL, G.C.B., at Ashdale Hall, county Cork, is announced.

RECENT FROSTS at night appear to have done some injury to the vineyards in some departments in France.

THE CARBONATE at Woolwich was on Monday assembled for general parade and inspection in heavy marching order.

A BANQUET took place in Marylebone on Monday night, in honour of Mr. Edwin James's return to Parliament. The reception accorded to Mr. James and to Sir Benjamin Hall was of a most enthusiastic character.

A LARGE NUMBER OF THE NEAPOLITAN EXILES have left England for Piedmont. They avoid noisy demonstrations, and go straight to the field.

MR. JAMES ROBINSON, Law Adviser of the Lord-Lieutenant, has resigned. Mr. Vance, brother to the member for the city of Dublin, takes the post thus vacated; while Mr. Robinson is appointed to the chairmanship of Rosemount, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Hutton.

DURING THE CELEBRATION OF THE MARRIAGE of the daughter of Mr. Jones, general manager of the Chester Station, last week, a man named James Hayes, foreman of the smith's shops, had his head blown off by the bursting of a cannon, which he had overcharged.

A MEETING of the Emperors of Russia and France at the Tuileries is talked of as a certainty.

A LAWYER was condemned to pay £5 at Liverpool, last week, for kissing the Ladyship of a public-house and her daughter.

THREE FRENCH SHIPS OF WAR are under sailing orders for the coal banks off Newfoundland; about which, or the conduct of the French fishermen there, we have a little difficulty with the Emperor's Government.

ORSENI'S ELDEST DAUGHTER has just died in Piedmont of consumption.

THE STATE APARTMENTS OF WINDSOR CASTLE are closed until further orders.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE burden of our song a fortnight ago was, "Will they dissolve?" but the organ-grinder has shifted his barrel, and now our tune is, "Who is out?" or "Will he come in?" Every man you meet here about has these questions upon his lips. In the metropolitan boroughs there will certainly be changes. In Lambeth, Mr. Williams voluntarily retires. He first came into Parliament for Coventry, in 1835, represented that city till 1847, when he was defeated, and his valuable services were lost to his country until 1850, when he was returned for Lambeth. Mr. Williams is over 70 years old, has lately shown signs of decay, and wisely seeks repose. Mr. Williams has often been laughed at as a blunderer, and he often gave cause for laughter, but still he was useful to the extent of his ability—which is saying a great deal more of him than can be said of many of those who laughed at him. Of course all government officials, *in esse* or *in posse*, will be glad enough to get rid of "old Williams;" but unless some one should take his post, and keep a watchful eye upon the public accounts, as he did, his retirement will be a loss to the country. A Mr. Doulton is to be his successor. Mr. Doulton is a successful local manufacturer of drain-pipes, &c.; and on the strength of his success in that way, seeks to become a legislator. Between a talent for making coarse pottery and a talent for making laws, there would seem to be no connection; but Lambeth thinks otherwise. Westminster expects no change. General Evans is over three score and ten, and is evidently breaking, but he means to stand to his gun a while longer yet; nor will any body venture, it appears, into the Marylebone lists with Sir Benjamin Hall and Mr. Edwin James. In Finsbury, Cox the "historian," will in all probability fall before the lance of Sir Morton Peto, knight; for Peto is a Dissenter, and it is in Finsbury that Dissenters do most prevail. Moreover, Sir Morton is wealthy beyond the dreams of avarice, and what is more to the purpose, spends no small sum yearly in building chapels. In the City, the Conservatives are trying to get up an opposition to the sitting members, but at present their success is doubtful. Thomas Baring has often been courted to stand, but has always resisted (excepting once, in 1813, when he fought Pattison single-handed, and was beaten by 165), and does not seem to be inclined to leave his faithful Huntingdon for the wealth and more important, but more fickle and uncertain metropolis. Neither does Lord Stanley show much alacrity to remove from King's Lynn. If he could be sure of victory, he would fight; but a defeat in the City of a high officer of state he probably thinks would be too damaging to his Government to be hazardous. Meanwhile, the Liberals have closed their ranks, and—under the auspices of the Registration Society, with Mr. Travers at its head—have formed into a solid square. Mr. Travers and his Society, it will be remembered, tried in 1857 to oust Lord John, and to that end brought forward Mr. Raikes Currie, the young man from Northampton, and failed. This time Travers and Co. take a wiser course. In the Tower Hamlets I hardly know what are the prospects. Mr. Salisbury Butler, I should suppose, is safe; and as to Mr. Ayrton, I see no reason why he should be disturbed, for, as the Scotch say, "where there's one better there's ten waur," but "better or waur" has really very little to do with these questions. In Southwark, fidgetty, meddling, peddling, little Mr. Apsley Pellatt, the "Chiny Man," is in the field; but as Mr. Pellatt was beaten by over a thousand majority in 1857, I would not give much for his chance. Mr. Pellatt, it will be recollected, was a director of the British Bank, which fact did much to defeat him in '57, and will probably do the same for him again in '59.

To go a little further off, a curious more is made by Sir Richard Bethell; he has left Aylesbury and is going to Wolverhampton. Most likely he thought his seat in the former was in danger, and that the Radical sentiments which he professes are more likely to meet with favour in a manufacturing than in an agricultural borough. For many years Mr. Thornley has represented Wolverhampton in conjunction with Mr. Villiers; but now the poor old gentleman, whose age and infirmities have made him a painful spectacle for some months past, retires, and Sir Richard aims at his seat. It would be a sad thing for Sir Richard not to be in the next Parliament when it assembles, for there is a chance of the woollack changing its occupant; and if Sir Richard be not on the spot, that brilliant vision in which he has so long indulged may fade away, and remain for ever an unrealised idea. Already has he refused a vice-chancellorship, as not worth his acceptance, or, perhaps, because it might mar his play for the greater stake. Talking of refusals, reminds me that Sir Watkyn Wynne has refused a peerage. He prefers his old family baronetcy to a peerage!

Let us await in anxious expectation the arrival of the Talking Fish! He is the only curiosity we have now to see, for I am afraid that "Mr. Baker, the Red Man of Ager," will be suborned to Bristol for the advertisement in last Sunday's "Era," and will not be on view in town! Nevertheless, we have had our stare at Lola Montes, and that is some comfort! On Thursday se'nnight the large room of the St. James's Hall was thronged by an anxious and demonstrative audience, who, as the advertised hour passed by and no sign was made, broke into demonstrations of impatience. It was a curious audience, recognisable at once as composed of stagers and gapers, persons who had heard of the lecturer and expended their money upon the simple principle of gratifying their eyesight. Beyond the newspaper critics, there were very few persons whom one regularly sees on "first nights," very few hangers-on to literature; but many Americans, and a large gathering of the middle classes, whose curiosity had been stimulated by anticipatory pulls and previously-published memoirs. Madame Lola Montes presented herself as a very ladylike-looking person of middle age, dressed in perfect taste, and possessing a very clear, distinct, and well-modulated voice. She was received with tremendous applause, which she acknowledged in somewhat exaggerated ballet fashion, and at once commenced her lecture. The matter of this is, truth to tell, dreary enough, and while all is unexceptionably moral, the

opening portion might easily be more refined. The Yankee peculiarities of spitting, whittling, tobacco-chewing, dollar-worshipping, &c., have been done to death; and Madame Lola Montes has nothing further to tell us. But it was to look upon her that in all probability the great bulk of the money was paid; and had she been contented with delivering herself of solemn platitudes and oft-repeated descriptions, there would have been no harm; it was not until she launched into a lengthy disquisition on the present state of political parties in America that a general move took place, and then as each patriot's name was mentioned in succession, a fresh row of stall-holders rose and "cleared out."

The betting question is once again under discussion, and it is really time that some decision, fair and equitable, should be arrived at. Under existing laws, no betting is allowed in any tavern or public subscription-room. Tattersall's would seem to enjoy a special immunity from the Act of Parliament; no objection is made to that establishment. But frequent *razzias* are made against other houses where turf transactions are supposed to be carried on; and the existence of lists, books, &c., being proved, heavy fines are inflicted on the delinquents. This is manifestly absurd and improper. If it be illegal to bet anywhere, then there is no such peculiar virtue in the air of Grosvenor Place as will purify the deed; if an Englishman who keeps his hands from picking and stealing, and pays the trifling taxes which an enlightened and parental Government levies on him, has a right to back his opinion as to which horse will win in a certain race by a wager, then the fact that he makes his bet, pipe in mouth and grog in hand, does not turn the transaction into a crime. It is very advisable that a solution should be come to, and that the streets in the neighbourhood of the offices of the sporting papers should be disencumbered of a crowd of unshorn, unwashed, tattered, woe-begone, dissipated beings, who haunt them now, and represent "*le sport*," of which he has so often heard, in the eyes of the intelligent foreigner.

Rumour in art-circles tells us that Mr. Millais has sent a third picture to the Academy, one which was not exhibited to the bulk of his friends, and has been seen but by few. This picture represents the daughter of the governor of a castle which serves as a state-dungeon, holding up a rose to the window of one of the cells, where a prisoner in whom she is interested is incarcerated. The expression of the girl's face and the entire painting of her figure are said to be most admirable.

Mr. Hook is described by those who have seen the result of his labours as being in the greatest force. I hear specially of two pictures, one which the artist calls "Luff her, Tommy!" and which represents a Devon fishing-boat, laden with fish, in the act of being luffed by a young boy at the helm, obedient to his father's orders, to avoid a heavy rolling swell which is just upon them. The other bears the well-known lines of Tennyson's "Brook":—

"For men may come and men may go,
But I run on for ever."

a beautiful English landscape, representing a brook, running between overhanging trees, spanned by an old bridge, and traversed at its fordable point by a rustic cart, containing a bent old man, and a young stalwart boy.

Mr. Faed sends a picture, representing "Scotch Emigrants at Prayer in the Blackwoods of Canada," the treatment of which is described as tender and refined in the highest degree.

Mr. Ansell's principal subject this year is "Sheep-washing in the Highlands."

Mr. Halliday, one of the most rising of the pre-Raphaelite brotherhood, contributes a careful and elaborately-painted picture of rustic child-life, which he calls "Music in the Ripe Corn."

Mr. Rankley, a *genre* painter of yearly increasing reputation, has a very good subject, capably executed. It is called "The Last Sermon," representing a young clergyman, who is about to leave the parish where his first happy years of married life have been spent, in the act of composing his farewell discourse. His melancholy at the occasion is shared by his young wife, who is seated by his side looking out on the moonlit village, the scene of their early struggles, hopes, and fears, with a mournful regret and tenderness which is most natural, and most admirably conveyed.

In landscape, Mr. W. Fenn has two pictures of Devonshire coast scenery, which for clearness, airiness, and general tone of colouring, will not, I make bold to say, be exceeded by any contribution to the Academy walls.

A week or so ago, your contemporary the "Critic," gave currency to a report that Mr. Thackeray, for a certain sum, had entered into an agreement to write hereafter for Messrs. Smith and Elder. The truth of this report was denied in the "Publishers' Circular." Nevertheless, without entering into the question of the pecuniary amount which was named, it may be relied on as a fact that Mr. Thackeray's future works will be published by Messrs. Smith and Elder, and not, as heretofore, by Messrs. Bradbury and Evans.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Green-room gossip is rife with forthcoming Easter novelties. The HAYMARKET management avails itself of the oft-tried services of Mr. Frank Talford, who has again reverted to a classical subject, and chosen the friendship of Orestes and Pylades as the theme for modern illustration, and as the vehicle for puns and parodies.

For the ADELPHI, Messrs. Shirley Brooks and Mark Lemon are the joint authors of a burlesque upon the well-known subject of the "Devil on Two Sticks," and to Mr. Toole is confided the representation of Asmodeus.

THE STRAND produces no novelty, reviving the excellent extravaganza of the "Maid and the Magpie," and reserving until Whitsuntide the production of Mr. Byron's wit. Mr. James Rogers joins this company.

There will be no special novelty at the OLYMPIC at Easter. On Monday last, a one-act comedy by Mr. Tom Taylor was produced with perfect success. It is called "Nine Points of the Law," and, though slight in plot, affords good opportunities for the principal actors, which it is due to them to say they make the most of: Mrs. Stirling as a fascinating widow, of most versatile powers, softening and subduing a rough Rochdale manufacturer by her tenderness and helplessness, and immediately afterward captivating his attorney by her brisk business manners and her knowledge of the law. Mr. Addison, who played the manufacturer, added to the reputation which he enjoys among all who really understand what good acting should be—of being one of the very first dramatic artists of the day; his performance was finished and polished in the highest degree. Mr. H. Wigan, a very careful and painstaking actor, is entitled to a special word of praise for his make-up and performance of the attorney.

Mr. and Mrs. German Reed will produce their "Popular Illustrations" during Passion Week (next week) at the Olympic Theatre. The performance will consist of a selection of all the most successful characters from the various entertainments hitherto given by Mr. and Mrs. Reed. It is not unlikely that the present will be the only opportunity of seeing the "Popular Illustrations" in London this season.

NEW CORPS OF MALTESE BEEFEATERS.

GOVERNMENT has provided another medium for the employment of old deserving soldiers, by forming a corp of beefeaters for service in the garrison of Malta. It is very possible, that, like their elder brethren of the Tower, they will be used more for ornamental than useful purposes; but we can hardly find fault with an institution that keeps a class of meritorious men, who have served their country well, from a hungry, poverty-stricken old age. The new dress resembles somewhat that worn by the imposing gentlemen who conduct visitors through the metropolitan fortress, the only difference being, that instead of a crown on the breast, they have a Maltese cross, in white cloth, edged with red. These men will be employed in the Governor's palace at Valetta, and will perform the same duties at that establishment as our own ox-fed warders discharge at home.

HIGHLAND MARY.

MR. BAXTER exhibits at the Portland Gallery the portrait of a good-looking young person whom he has thought fit to call "Highland Mary," and who may, for aught we know to the contrary, bear some resemblance to the Highland Mary beloved by Burns. But there is certainly nothing that particularly reminds us of Scotland in the picture—if we except the plaid in "Highland Mary's" dress, and the Scotch landscape in the background. We fancy artists paint their heroines first, and name them afterwards. Having found a model of some personal attractions, they do her portrait, omitting any defects she may chance to have, fancy they have produced an "ideal" face, and then look through the poets to discover a name for their creation. According to the colour of the hair or eyes, the heroine is named Laura, or Beatrice, or Lisette, or Highland Mary. But although there is no poetic truth in Mr. Baxter's picture, and although his "Highland Mary" would look just as pretty if called by any other name, it cannot be denied that she is pretty, and beauty in itself is an excellent recommendation for any young lady.

THE FIRST LONDON DRINKING FOUNTAIN.

The first of a series of drinking fountains to be erected in London, and of which we give an illustration, is now nearly completed. It is situated at the north-eastern corner of Snow Hill, in the wall of St. Sepulchre's churchyard, and is exceedingly simple and appropriate in conception. The work is composed of columns and sill, in polished red granite, with an alcove of white marble, the whole being enclosed within an arch, which gives depth and importance to the design. This fountain—as well as others, which are intended to be erected in various parts of the



HIGHLAND MARY.—(FROM A PICTURE BY C. BAXTER, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.)

metropolis—is constructed by the generous munificence of Mr. Gurney, of Lombard Street. Two of the sites already determined upon, in addition to the one above, are the Royal Exchange and the Regent's Circus.

We are glad to see this step in the right direction, as tending to keep from the pothouse many a thirsty mechanic, whose parched throat in the sultry days of summer will be more gratefully refreshed by a draught of nature's limpid stream, than by all the chemical atrocities concocted for his ruin at the gin-palace.

The artists employed to design and model these useful and ornamental embellishments for our streets, are Messrs. Wills Brothers, sculptors, and the one now in hand is being erected by Messrs. Child, Son, and Martin.

THE BURIAL OF A MONK OF LA TRAPPE.

THE monastic order of La Trappe has always excited great interest from the known severity of its discipline and the supposed sanctity of its brotherhood. Recent exposures have been made at their monastery at Forge, which considerably militates against the body generally. It appears that the treatment experienced by the youth entrusted to their care has been such as to warrant an investigation, and upwards of ninety witnesses have been already examined, who prove, beyond doubt, the cruelty, not to say immorality, of the holy fathers. We quote the following from the "Journal de Charleroi":—

"It would seem from the indictment, that the punishments inflicted have been of the most cruel description. A pupil guilty of any fault was attached, bare-headed, to a post, placed in an exposed position in the sun; an iron collar was fastened round his neck, which compelled him to keep his head in an upright position, and iron rings were also fastened tight round his wrists. The collar and rings were attached to the post by chains. When boys were released from this punishment, they frequently fainted in the arms of those who came to deliver them. When in school, the boys were repeatedly struck so heavily over their fingers with a knotted thong of leather as to render them completely numb. Another punishment consisted in stripping the boy naked, and then, while he lay on his face on the ground, giving him heavy stripes with the same thong, each boy being compelled to inflict a blow. The indictment also speaks of criminal assaults on several of the boys on the part of the Trappists."

Our engraving illustrates the burial of one of the order, and from the religious solemnity that pervades the scene, we find it difficult to believe that those who profess the teaching "To love thy neighbour as thyself," should be guilty of such wrongs as those imputed to them.

old men forget: yet all shall be forgot,
But he'll remember, with advantages,
What feats he did that day: Then shall our names
Familiar in his mouth as household words—
Harry the king, Bedford and Exeter,

THE REVIVAL OF

HENRY V.

MR. KEAN'S

PERFORMANCE

AT THE

THEATRE

FRANÇAIS

ON

TUESDAY

LAST

EVENING

OF

THE

REVIVAL

OF

HENRY

V.

BY

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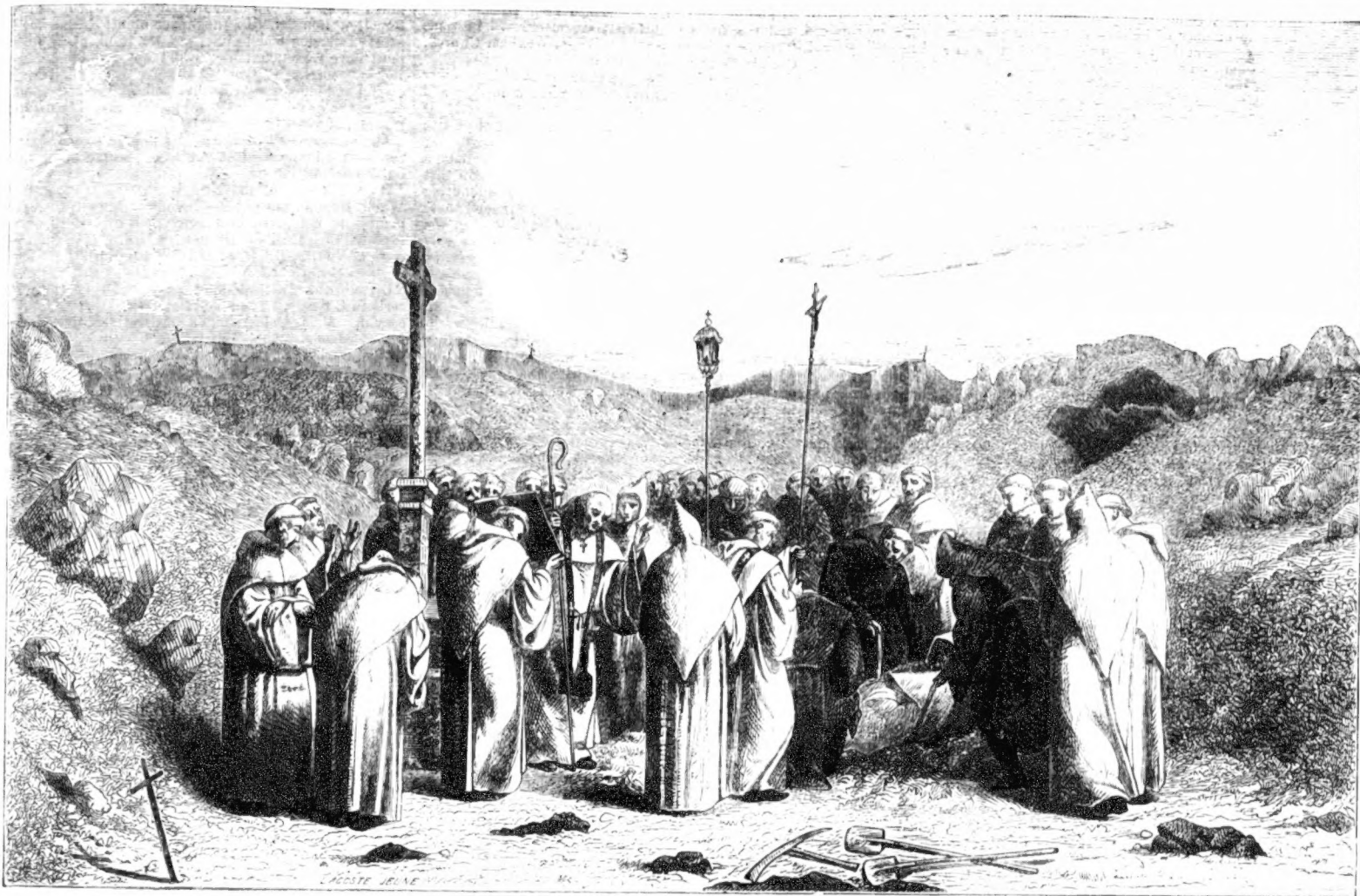
KEAN.



THE FIRST LONDON DRINKING FOUNTAIN, ADJOINING ST. SEPULCHRE'S CHURCH, SNOW HILL.



MALTESE BEEFEATER.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



THE BURIAL OF A MONK OF LA TRAPPE.

Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloster—
Be in their flowing cups freshly remembered.
This story shall the good man teach his son;
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remembered;
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers

For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition;
And gentlemen in England, now a-bed,
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here;
And hold their manhoods cheap while any speak
That fought with us upon St. Crispin's day."

In dealing with a play so varied in its detail as this revived "Henry V." it is impossible to arrange within one's mind the crowd of brilliant visions that have passed before the eye, or to reduce the impressions received into verbal description, that would, in the slightest degree, do justice to a production that is, in scenic art, what a cathedral is in architecture—an assemblage of beauties, each meriting separate consideration.



SCENE FROM HENRY V. AT THE PRINCESS'S THEATRE: THE KING ADDRESSING THE TROOPS.

FRENCH EXHIBITION.

For a French Exhibition, Mr. Gambart's Gallery in Pall Mall certainly contains a considerable number of Belgian and Dutch pictures. Instead of complaining, we rejoice at this; and we will add that in our opinion the able director would do well to collect specimens of every school in Europe. The productions of Düsseldorf and Munich would have quite as much interest for the English people as those of Paris and Brussels; and, by the admission of continental pictures of all kinds, a completeness would be given to the exhibition of foreign art which would increase its value considerably. It may be doubted whether the best paintings in the present collection are not those of the Belgian artists. The two most remarkable works in the historical style are certainly M. Leys's "Early Days of the Reformation," and M. Gallait's well-known "Brussels Archers paying their last respects to Counts Egmont and Horn" (a reduction of the picture exhibited at the Paris Annual Exhibition in 1842). There is much power and expression in M. Leys's production, and at the same time a solemnity and rigidity which may perhaps be characteristic of Flemish Protestantism (as of our own Puritanism), but which appear to us to proceed from the artist's study, not to say imitation, of the early Flemish masters. Why should there not be a pre-Rubensian as well as a pre-Raphaelite school? But such a school really exists. There has been a return to ancient (not antique) models in Belgium and in Germany as in England. Whether it was that art had become stationary and utterly conventional we will not inquire, but for some cause or other numerous painters in various parts of Europe, without previous concert, and without a line having been written on the subject, have abandoned the time-honoured custom of imitating their immediate predecessors, and have taken to copying either nature itself, or that grotesque *naïveté* which is found in the works of the early masters of all schools, and which is thought to be natural. Thus, the French poets of the Restoration went back to the ballad-writers and rhymesters of the Francis the First period, while the prose-writers recruited their vocabulary—impoverished by academic pedants—in the pages of Rabelais. We cannot say that we admire pictures in which the figures are imitated from Mabeuse, or Hans Hemling, or Albert Dürer, and there is the same unnatural stiffness in M. Leys's "Early Days of the Reformation" that marks the more elevated performances of Cornelius, and sometimes of Kaulbach. But artists and poets work blindly, and there may be salvation for art in this return to early sources, though the signs of regeneration are not yet very apparent. M. Leys's second picture is a richly-coloured "Scene from the Siege of Antwerp," in the modern style. It is well composed, but too theatrical. The lady who is interesting for the preservation of the cathedral, suggests Mademoiselle Lotti imploring Signor Debassini to spare the life of Signor Neri-Baraldi. Several other pre-Rubensians have pictures in this exhibition. Joseph Lies has sent a picture called the "Smiles" (a mis-translation, we imagine), in which the principal figure is a young girl, pretty but strong, in a brown body and blue skirt, with a handkerchief tied over her head, after the manner of her country. She is not smiling but knitting, with a pleasant but slightly impertinent expression of countenance. On a heap of leaves, at the back, are two children, one of whom is laughing (not smiling) in consequence of being tickled by the other. In M. Dillen's "Mother's Kiss," everything is in the early style except the mother, who looks like a grandmother. Among the ordinary Dutch or Belgian artists, we may mention M. Willems, who sends "The Artist"—a young person of the Flemish servant-girl type; M. Verheyden, who contributes "Coquetry"—in which the young lady is not sufficiently pretty to justify that otherwise pardonable failing; and M. Van Schendel, who is represented by a "Young Lady Playing a Guitar." In this last picture, in front of the executant is an enormous wax-light, which causes irreverent persons to inquire whether the real name of the artist is not "Van Candle."

Probably, of all the French artists who from time to time have exhibited at Mr. Gambart's Gallery during the last five years, the most successful in pleasing the English public have been Rosa Bonheur, Meissonier, and (thanks to his picture of the "Duel after the Masquerade") Gerome. Neither of these artists is so well represented this year as could be wished. If we were to make an exception to this statement, it would be as regards Mademoiselle Bonheur, who contributes some very woolly sheep in a wonderfully luxuriant meadow, and two charming sketches or "studies" of an apple-tree and a cherry-tree, both in blossom. Meissonier sends nothing but a crayon drawing of a Mosquetaire; and Gerome contributes two very small figures very highly finished, "An Albanian Soldier," and an "Arnaout Soldier Drinking." These Arnauts and Albanians are just such figures as Meissonier himself might have painted, but he would have treated them far more effectively.

But the most successful exhibitor of the present year is decidedly M. Edouard Frère; and his "Scenes in Humble Life" are indeed charming. They are thoroughly natural, and executed with great feeling, but have none of those merits which usually recommend an artist to attention in France. Edouard Frère is a pupil of Paul Delaroche, but the only French painter of eminence whose works he can have imitated is Chardin, the hero of the French realists. M. Frère's children (infants for the most part) are wonderfully natural. The subjects would appear trivial, if we were to describe them, and we will merely mention that "The Breakfast," in which the child is being fed by its mother with a spoon (taking, in fact, a *déjeuner à la cuiller*), "The Artizan's Family" and "The Cut Finger" are among the best pictures in the gallery.

The other M. Frère (probably the actual *frère* of the one we have just mentioned) has sent a number of creamy-looking pictures of Eastern life, such as "Caravans crossing the Desert," the "Pyramids at Sunset," &c. M. Féonentin's "Street in Cairo," in spite of the well-known white wall and bright blue sky, is not a bit like Decamps, from whom it is obviously imitated.

Of the masters better known and more esteemed in France than in England, M. Couture exhibits a reduction of his celebrated "Decadence of the Romans," but the present picture is so small that it is impossible to obtain from it any just idea of the original. M. Isabey, one of the most distinguished "colourists" of the modern French school, will be at once recognised in his agate-like painting of the "Old Fishing Smack."

M. Lepoitevin, the painter of the "Wolves pursuing a Ship-wrecked Crew in the White Sea," in the gallery of the Luxembourg, has a "Beer-haus on the Banks of the Moordek," which is by no means a terrible affair, though at first sight there appears to be some likelihood of the river inundating the cellar and spoiling the beer. M. Sain's "Ramponeau's Tavern," is not a very good picture, nor is the subject by any means pleasant. If orgies are to be painted at all, let us have something like the "Kermesses" of Rubens—that is to say, the truth forcibly expressed—or let them be redeemed by some kind of elegance. M. Sain's picture is neither distinguished by beauty nor truth.

M. Brion's large picture, entitled "Early Morning on the Rhine," is vigorous and truthful, though, according to the poetic belief, the great German river is never so muddy nor its atmosphere so cloudy as M. Brion would have us believe. Another picture, which will be remarked first for its size, and secondly for its great merit, is M. Troyon's "Country Fair in France." In his own country, this artist has at least as great a reputation for his animal paintings as Rosa Bonheur. This reputation is, in our opinion, not merited. There can be no doubt as to M. Troyon painting with remarkable power, but his works have none of that freshness, that odour of the country, which give such a charm to even the most insignificant of Mademoiselle Bonheur's productions. M. Belly, a pupil of Troyon's, has painted some good cattle in his "Evening at Djiseh, near Cairo." M. Belly's picture possesses other merits, but we doubt the truthfulness of its colour, though this is a point on which, not having been to the East, we are unable to speak with any certainty. Some clever little animal pictures, executed with some naturalness, but also with an evident eye to effect, are exhibited by M. Jules Jacques Vayrasat. The best of these seem to be the "Towing-path" and "Shoeing a horse."

Among the landscape painters, Theodore Rousseau and Emile Lambinet deserve to be noticed. M. Lambinet has been passing some time in England, and the fruits of his visit are manifested in some thoroughly English scenes, such as Wexham Court, Wexham Church, and the Wexham Rectory Farm (in Buckinghamshire).

M. Tassaert's "Last Prayer" must not be passed over without a few words of remonstrance. In a dingy, dirty-brown room a mother and daughter, clad in dirty-brown or rusty black, are seen. Misery is stamped on the whole picture. The old woman is in a state of passive despair, but the daughter has thrown herself passionately on to her mother's knees, and appears to be lost in grief. In the foreground a pan of red-hot charcoal (painted brown) is seen, and it is plain that the unfortunate woman will be dead before long. On the neighbouring house-top (of which we have a glimpse through the attic window) there is snow; and the story to be gathered from the picture is that in the depth of winter this mother and daughter have no food, and only enough fuel to cause their own destruction. There is much expression in the figure of the despondent, dying girl; but we cannot see any beauty in the notion of the old woman looking devoutly at a figure of the Virgin while she is in the act of committing suicide.

We cannot conclude our notice of this interesting exhibition without calling attention to M. Bida's wonderful pencil drawings. M. Bida seems to attain the same effects of colour with the pencil, that his distinguished master, Eugène Delacroix, produces with the brush. Nor can anything be more perfect than his drawing and the general arrangement of his groups. This artist seems to devote himself exclusively to Eastern scenes, and all his pictures—Egyptian recruits, Albanian bakers, Arnaut soldiers, and Cairo donkey-drivers,—are full of character. M. Bida's drawings were first exhibited at a recent conversation given by the Society for the Encouragement of Fine Arts.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

The approaching conflict between the two "Royal Italian Operas" reminds us of the coming war between Austria and Italy. The old Covent Garden establishment (it was now twelve years since) represents the principle of legitimacy and conservatism while Drury Lane is associated with the most daring innovations, amounting in fact to an entire revolution in the system of operatic management, both behind and before the curtain. Graziani stands for the deserters who go over to the Piedmontese camp; and to those who wish to pursue the parallel further, it will probably occur that Mr. Gye's theatre derives its chief strength from Germany, the greatest triumphs of the Royal Italian Opera having been achieved in Meyerbeer's works, while Mr. E. T. Smith evidently intends to depend principally on Italy. There is something German, too, in the attention paid at the former of these theatres to the orchestra, while at the latter the vocalists will form the chief attraction. If the peace of Europe is threatened by the growing importance of the "Italian difficulty," it is not the peace of London menaced by the rivalry between our operatic managers? The directors, to do them justice, are more pugnacious than Victor Emmanuel and Francis Joseph. They have already come to blows, and this not merely in the advertisement sheet of the "Times," but in the critical columns of the "Morning Chronicle." In this preliminary contest, the Italian or Smith party obtained every advantage, for without having sought the encounter, they gained a decided victory. A statement impugning the veracity of Mr. Smith's announcements appearing in the journal we have mentioned, the manager of Drury Lane replied to it with remonstrances, or more probably with threats, and the end of the affair was that our over-zealous contemporary had to publish an apology. It is a remarkable fact, suggested to us by the "Chronicle's" article on the Drury Lane speculation, that the very same objections which were made a dozen years ago by Mr. Lumley's friends against the establishment of a second Italian opera at Covent Garden, are now directed by the supporters of Mr. Gye against Mr. E. T. Smith's enterprise. In 1847 the partisans of the new "Royal Italian Opera" maintained that Mr. Costa and his orchestra, together with all the principal members of the company engaged at her Majesty's Theatre, had a perfect right to leave Mr. Lumley in a body, and combine to support a hostile establishment, and yet they are scandalised now that a single vocalist should have thought fit to desert Mr. Gye, in order to profit by the offers made by his assailant. Mr. Smith himself is treated as a very irreverent person, for venturing to open a theatre which may interfere with the prospects of another manager; and it is hinted that the aristocratic subscribers to Covent Garden, will never consent to go to a theatre where the price of a stall is no more than that usually charged at respectable Italian Operas for an admission to the pit—just as it used to be said by the Lumleyites of 1847, that people of fashion would never dream of attending representations, however excellent, at a theatre situated in Bow Street. We cannot say that Drury Lane will be to Covent Garden what Covent Garden was to her Majesty's Theatre; but the relative position of Mr. Gye and Mr. Smith is almost identical with that of Mr. Lumley and Mr. Gye (or rather Mr. Beale), in former years. That the Drury Lane performances will be on the whole superior to those of the Royal Italian Opera, we do not of course believe, nor do we think that there was any very urgent call for an opposition to Mr. Gye, whose orchestra cannot be equalled in England, and whose *troupe* has always comprised among its leading members the most distinguished vocalists in Europe. Unfortunately, this manager has depended too much on long-established reputations, and "on *tombe du côté où l'on penche*." He forgot, or was unaware, that there were singers in Italy, who, although they had not been twenty-five years before the public, nevertheless possessed distinguished merit; and that with all its appreciation of solid worth, the public has a passion for novelty. Mr. Smith's programme contains the names of some half-dozen singers, who either this year, or last year, or the year before, should have been heard at the Royal Italian Opera, and *would* have been engaged if Mr. Gye had possessed the prudence and perception which should belong to the manager of the first lyrical establishment in England.

Of the two new singers whose services the director of the Royal Italian Opera has secured, one, Madame Lotti de la Santa, has been already mentioned by us, and the favourable opinion which we formed of her voice and general capabilities from her performance of Leonora in the "Trovatore," was more than confirmed on Tuesday last, when this lady appeared for the first time as Maria, in "Maria di Rohan." This opera, it will be remembered, contains a part for the baritone, in which Ronconi has ample opportunities for the display of his great histrionic powers. Indeed, Signor Ronconi's Chevreuse is undoubtedly the finest piece of tragic acting of the day. As we have no tragedians who attain to more than what, in a proper condition of the stage, would be considered mediocrity, and as the great majority of those we have had the misfortune to see do not rise above the contemptible, the estimate we have expressed of Signor Ronconi's abilities will perhaps not appear a very high one, and we will therefore add, that in the last act of "Maria di Rohan," he is as great as Rachel in Phèdre, and that no actor we have ever seen approaches him. But fortune, which is said to favour the bold, did not favour Mr. Gye last week. Four performances (two of the "Trovatore" and two of the "Sonnambula"), had been given without any great success, at all events without producing any favourable impression on the public; but we were in hopes that the fifth, thanks to the acting of Ronconi, would be a triumph. Unfortunately Ronconi was so ill that it was utterly out of his power to appear, and on the day of performance it was announced that the part of Chevreuse would be undertaken by Debassini. Debassini sang "like an artist," we admit, but like an artist who has lost his voice. In cantabile passages the new baritone is lamentably inefficient, but in agitated, dramatic movements, his faults are less evident, and his acting is always superior to his singing. It was, however, quite as injudicious to give Signor Debassini a part rendered celebrated by the genius of Ronconi, as to allow Madame Lotti to make her first appearance in the rôle of Leonora, in which all our very greatest sopranis have been heard. In the last act, the representative

of Chevreuse was not ineffective—nor is he ever unintelligent—but he failed altogether to satisfy the audience, which naturally has not yet forgotten Ronconi. In the prayer of act 3, Madame Lotti sang with great expression and feeling, and we think every one who heard her must have regretted that she did not make her *début* in "Maria di Rohan" instead of the "Trovatore." Neri-Baraldi, as Chalais, was careful and moderately efficient; and the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Costa, was all that could be desired. The overture in particular was played to perfection.

Of the second *débutante* of the present season, Mademoiselle Caldeiron, we need only say that she has appeared twice in the "Sonnambula" without success.

At the second of the New Philharmonic concerts (which, as Dr. Wyde informs the public—already sufficiently well-informed on that point—are not given by a society, but by himself alone) the orchestra executed Cherubini's overture to "Medea;" Wieniawski played a concerto of Viotti. Belcetti's fine voice was heard to great advantage in the air from Spohr's "Jessonda." Miss Dolby gave the scene from Gluck's "Orfeo," and Mr. Hallé took the pianoforte part in Beethoven's concerto in C minor. The concert was well attended, and thoroughly successful. At M. Goldschmidt's first matinée, that distinguished pianist played Mendelssohn's "Variations Sérielles," which are as different from the ordinary, common-place embroilings of well-known themes, as conscientious studies are from rapid improvisations. M. Goldschmidt was also heard to advantage in Beethoven's sonata in G minor, for piano and violoncello, the part of the latter instrument being taken by M. Piatti.

LAW AND CRIME.

Of all the operations of criminal law, there is perhaps scarcely one which is popularly hailed with so much delight as that of the unmasking of the hypocritical impostor. There is always a broad dash of comedy about hypocrisy, especially about its discomfiture. But the true hypocrite, whether, like Tartuffe, he is carried off to jail amid a burst of laughter from his intended dupes; or whether, like Pecksniff, he is struck down with a walking-stick, which he has "every reason to believe has knobs upon it," always imagines himself the injured party. It is the very essence of hypocrisy that the culprit begins by imposing upon himself, and is never undeceived. The Reverend Charles Geary, whose name has lately been frequently before the public, possessed many desirable qualities of an active philanthropist. To a persuasive address he superadded the clerical costume and a sanctimonious phraseology, and the combination rendered him a most useful agent in the collection of subscriptions for the "Indigent Sempstress's Home." So impressed was the Reverend Charles with the advantages of this Institution, and of charity exhibited in its direction, that he could not be rebuffed. Was Lady B. or the Countess of A. ignorant of its existence? That should be no impediment—down went their ladyships' names as patronesses, unknown to themselves. Did worldly persons doubt the clerical calling of the reverend gentleman, and hint their suspicion of the "Home" being a myth? The first doubt was disposed of by an allegation of the ordination of the "Reverend," by no less eminent a divine than the too-well-beloved Dr. Dillan, unfortunately after the excommunication of that celebrated pastor by his brotherhood, guided by the slanderous reports against the Doctor's moral career. As for the second, the "Reverend" triumphantly referred his questioners to the "Home" itself, where two or three aged paupers mumbled vaguely about in desolate apartments furnished only with two or three iron bedsteads, the produce of hard bargains driven with despondent brokers. The guineas collected:—well—they went into the account. The account of course was properly audited, and under the control of the treasurer, T. Dry, Esquire, of Magdalene Hall, Hayes, Middlesex. T. Dry, Esquire, unhappily lived not at Magdalene Hall, but had been known at the Insolvent Court. For the matter of that, so had the Reverend Gentleman himself, and neither of them only once. When, not even satisfied with these perquisitions and discoveries, the subscribers pursued the Reverend Charles Geary into the very presence of a police magistrate, the amiable philanthropist's confidence was unbounded. He conducted himself, say the journals, "with a coolness amounting to perfect hardihood," and stared at the witnesses in a manner which the same authorities pronounce "impertinent." The police magistrate, Mr. Elliott, changed all this, by describing him as a "person" collecting large subscriptions, giving himself the title of "Reverend," and describing himself as a clergyman with equal audacity. The charity was a "sham," the collection of subscriptions "an enormous, scandalous, and gross fraud, calculated to dry up the sources of charity itself." The defendant was sentenced to three months' hard labour. The Reverend Charles Geary turned deadly pale, muttered incoherent words about an appeal, and was removed by the jailer, to moult his low-church costume, black broadcloth and white cravat, for the very unclerical costume, *selon le regle*, in the House of Correction.

There is at present an attempt being made to carry through the House of Commons a bill which has been variously entitled in the journals as the "Railway Frauds Prevention Bill," and the "Railway Tickets Transfer Bill." It contemplates one of the worst objects which any legislation can possibly effect, namely, to render criminal that which is in itself neither immoral nor injurious. Under the specious pretence of providing against the transfer of railway return-tickets, it is sought to give railway officials the power of arresting and prosecuting any person who may use on a return journey a ticket which on the original transit was paid for by some one else. The railway companies appear to speculate upon return-tickets, that a certain per centage will probably not be used for the return journey by the purchasers, who may be detained by the ordinary accidents and delays incident to travelling. The companies are not sufficiently ingenious, have not sufficient time to spare, or are unwilling to incur the expense of rendering their tickets non-transferable in practice as they are supposed to be in theory, and therefore call in the aid of the Legislature to assist them by creating a new crime. What Jones has purchased and paid for he is not to be at liberty to sell to Smith. What can it matter to a railway company whether it takes Jones to Brighton and brings back Smith, or carries back Jones whence he came? Simply nothing but the loss of the per centage of accidental or other detention already pointed out. If this can be, and frequently is, evaded by the purchaser, why not leave it out of the question and charge a fair price, exclusive of such consideration (a mere trifle at the utmost), for the double journey?

Ambrose Haynes, solicitor, surrendered to take his trial upon an indictment for conspiracy in connection with the notorious "Bennett" gang. It may be remembered that the Bennetts were persons who under the assumed names of certain real and fictitious doctors of medicine pretended to cure deafness in ten minutes. Haynes appeared once at a police-office as attorney for one of these men, and has since been selected as a subject for an indictment, at the instance of Stowell, the informer. We have already intimated our opinion respecting the connection of Stowell with the Bennett prosecution, also our anticipation of the probability, under such auspices, of the absence of material evidence at the trial. The original prosecutors in the case against the Bennetts laid no charges against Haynes. Why he should have been included in Stowell's indictment, must remain a mystery. In evidence of the charge against him, two witnesses were called, who both confessed themselves accomplices in the Bennett frauds, and whose evidence was received with deserved discredit. The accused was charged specially with having received a sum of money for the Bennetts from a lady named Roach, who did not appear. He was accompanied into court by numerous friends, to give evidence as to his respectability. The Recorder, after a statement by Mr. Haynes's counsel (Mr. Ballantine, who averred his client to be a man of honour, and incapable of the conduct imputed), observed that he had only allowed the case to proceed to afford an opportunity for such statement, and an acquittal was at once returned. It transpired in the course of the evidence that the partners in the Bennett gang had been clearing by their fraudulent business, until lately, each £2,000 a year.

by THOMAS FOX, 2, Catherine Street, Strand, Grosvenor -
FAY, APRIL 16, 1893.